

**PORT  
CHALMERS  
SCHOOL**

**125 Years**



**'Na pai me mamahi'**



Lot 53c  
\$5

## A FIRM FOUNDATION

# 125 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN PORT CHALMERS

by

IAN CHURCH  
M.A.Hons.

A pupil of the school 1948 - 1954

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## **FOREWORD**

I extend to Ian Church the sincere thanks of the committee for compiling at our request this concise and interesting history of events relating to our school over the past 125 years.

With the wealth of information available the selections of material is a very difficult task, but Ian has produced for us an historical document with a very human touch and one which I am sure will be much appreciated and will stimulate discussions and recall memories of the past.

Long may our traditions survive.

Yesterday has been recorded. The future can be written in the book of tomorrow.

**J. S. Thorn,  
Mayor and Chairman of the  
Organising Committee.**

## 1. Establishing the School, 1856 to 1875

"One of the most painful feelings that a respectable emigrant endures on leaving his native country arises from the reflection that his children will be deprived of the means of a good education," said the 'Otago Journal' published in Edinburgh in December 1847. Therefore the founders of the Otago colony were determined to plant their Scottish regard for education firmly in the new land and they charged the Rev. Thomas Burns, Edward Lee, Edward McGlashan and William Cargill to take out "plans and specifications for churches and school houses and to have the same properly erected."

Port Chalmers was only a few months old when, in 1849, a school was begun with five pupils under Mr Bramley, "a Dublin University man". An infant school was run by a Mrs Johnson. In 1852 Port Chalmers was one of three district schools, along with Dunedin and North East Valley, whose schoolmasters were appointed and paid by the Presbyterian Church.

But this system had not proved satisfactory and one of the first tasks of the Otago Provincial Council set up in 1853 was to appoint a committee to report on education. Among its recommendations in 1854 was the need for a well-qualified teacher for Port Chalmers. The Council wrote to Scotland for suitable teachers, to be paid 100 pounds a year, and in the meantime prepared an Education Ordinance which was passed in March 1856.

The Ordinance began: "Whereas Secular Instruction should be available to children of all denominations within the Province of Otago; and whereas the means of Education within the Province fall far short of what is immediately required," and went on to establish a Board of Education empowered to set up Educational Districts.

Port Chalmers residents immediately petitioned for such a district which was granted in June. Its boundaries took in Portobello and the Lower Harbour as well as the town and adjacent bays. A committee consisting of T. Tayler, Chairman; T. Richardson, Secretary; J. G. Lewis, W. H. Mansford, H. McDermid, A. W. Morris and J. Seaton was elected at a meeting held in the Wesleyan Chapel on 11 July 1856.

The Rev. Mr Fenton (Anglican) begged the electors to instruct the committee to insist that school should open and close with prayer and that suitable provision be made for daily religious instruction. The chairman of the meeting, John McGlashan, suggested that the matter was premature; the question was to arouse heated feelings in later years.

A site for a school, one and a quarter acres, was reserved on the corner of Grey and Scotia Streets but to start with, the Wesleyan Chapel was engaged at a rental of 1 pound a year. A small house for the schoolmaster was built on a section in Scotia Street.

The Scottish teachers arrived on the ship 'Strathmore' in October and Mr Seaton and Mr McDermid secured the services of Mr Colin Allan. He was a native of Dunvegan, Skye, aged 33, and he had taught in both Scotland and England. Nine days after landing he commenced the school on Monday, 20 October with 20 pupils. They were taught English, Reading, Geography and Grammer for 5/- a quarter; with Writing added the fee was 8/- and with Arithmetic as well 10/-. According to Mr Allan's reports the methods were "intellectual—the pupils by question and answer are made to understand the subject of every lesson thoroughly." Writing was done "in manuscripts, copybooks and from dictation on slates." "Collective or gallery lessons on Science or Natural History" were given once a week. For the higher classes Mr Allan used McCulloch's Course of Reading and Series of Lessons, and for the lower classes the Scottish School Book Association's books. Classes ran from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. Discipline was "mild but firm."

Among the first pupils were Grace Lean, Edwin and Alfred Lewis from Blanket Bay, the Gilfillans from Roseneath and M. Miller from Sawyers Bay. The outlying children rowed to school or came through bush tracks; Grace Lean was once stopped by Chief Taiao at the Mussel Bay landing place. The annual break-up was an ordeal for the pupils for they were examined in front of their parents. But they also had socials, concerts and annual picnics at the Kaik.

A combined Day and Sabbath School social was held in the Presbyterian Church in January 1857. The programme commenced with tea at 4.00 p.m.

Grace Before Tea—‘Be Present at Our Table, Lord’

Grace After Tea—‘We Thank Thee, Lord’

Chairman’s Address

Children Sing—‘O Come Let Us Sing’

Address by Mr Allan

Children Sing—‘School is Pleasure’

Instruments—‘Lightly Tread’

Address by Mr Morris

Children Sing—‘O Say, Busy Bee’

Instruments—‘Minute Gun at Sea’

Address

Children Sing—‘Follow Me’

Duet—Messrs Richardson and Begg

Address

Children Sing—‘All Hail’

Magic Lantern

Concluding with Fireworks Display

Mr Allan was an Elder and Session Clerk of the Presbyterian Church; he took service when Dr Burns was absent and conducted the ‘Sabbath School’ in the Wesleyan Chapel. He evidently gave satisfaction to the committee and parents. The average attendance in 1857 was 15 boys and 14 girls, aged between 6 and 15. Thomas Richardson reported in 1859: “There is no tendency shown by parents as yet to withdraw their children from school.” Attendance was “very regular” in summer and autumn but fell away in winter, partly because the unlined chapel was very cold. As the numbers increased another desk was necessary but the report of 1860 - 1861 expressed regret “that pupils are not allowed to remain sufficiently long at school for acquiring the higher branches of Education.”

The increasing roll made a school imperative, besides which the rent of the chapel had increased to 20 pounds a year and school had to be closed when it was used as a courthouse. The Provincial Council voted 200 pounds and after some delay the building of the school commenced in 1860. It was designed by Mr Langlands and built by Mr Maxwell. It was fortunate that it was built then for the rush to Gabriel’s Gully soon afterwards completely disrupted the labour market and halted all building.

The opening of the new classroom apparently went unrecorded though it is known that Johnny Jones presented to it the bell from the hulk ‘Thomas and Henry’.

In July 1861 Mr Allan resigned to become Provincial Immigration Officer in Dunedin. The committee expressed “their approbation of the efficient manner in which he conducted the school as evinced at the several examinations and now cordially tend to him a vote of thanks.”

His successor, whom he introduced, was Mr William Reid, a former colleague of the Rev. Dr Stuart in Scotland. He brought ability, knowledge and love of the young to his work, qualities which must have been strained as the roll doubled to 64 in 1861, although the average attendance was only 35. The report for that year shows that as well as the normal subjects both Scripture and ‘Vocal Music’ were taught.

Mr Reid also conducted the Sunday School and established a cadet company which drilled regularly with a weekly march to Sawyers Bay. They formed guards of honour for visiting Governors, once turning out for Governor Grey at six o’clock in the morning armed with sticks for swords or guns. “No doubt the governor was pleased with us as we all had run down without breakfast,” wrote J. M. Harland, “and about ten in the morning we all got served with a bun.” A later occasion when the cadets greeted Sir George and Lady Bowen who arrived on the ‘Hinemoa’ was recorded by J. B. Robertson: “They were all lined up on the jetty in two ranks, armed with single sticks under command of Lieutenant Robertson, while Lieutenant Goldie with a squad fired a salute of 13 guns from the

howitzer battery on the point. Lady Bowen was so pleased with the boys she regaled them with cakes and buns."

Such was the growth of the roll that the women of the town urged the appointment of a female assistant. Mr Reid, a bachelor, threatened to resign but was sufficiently pacified for Miss M. Hooman to commence her duties on 7 July 1864. She stayed for only six months being succeeded by Miss A. Bell. With 77 boys and 53 girls on the roll in March 1865 the two teachers had their hands full, especially as there still appears to have been only one room.

J. M. Harland recalled: "Mr Reid did not believe in the milk and water system of spare the rod but that a boy was sent to school to learn and no boy was with Mr Reid very long before he was glad to learn otherwise he would have such a merry time with a supplejack wielded by Mr Reid that he would not forget it for some time. Yet on Mr Reid's retirement the scholars contributed to buy him a present and in after years we all recognised that we had lost a good friend."

Mr Reid resigned in 1869 but continued to live on in Port Chalmers until he died in 1910 at the age of 89. He was well-liked by children, not the least because, as the Rev. W. Grant recalled, he liberally gave away sweets; in 1909 he gave away 127 pounds of peppermints!

At the end of 1869 the school became the Port Chalmers Grammar School offering secondary as well as primary education. The new rector was W. B. McKay, formerly at Andersons Bay. Only small relief was gained by the opening of schools at Sawyers Bay and Lower Harbour in 1870. First a right wing was added to the school, then a left wing in 1873 to cater for a roll of 228. At one stage 97 pupils were crammed into a room 16 feet by 28 feet. The Provincial Council was approached for a new school but claimed more pressing demands on its purse. As a temporary measure the Masonic Hall was hired as an infant room at 5/- a week. Mr McKay was assisted by John McFarlane and Miss A. Gourley.

Of the two men J. M. Harland has written: "Poor Mr McKay; we all recognised that he was a good scholar but that was the end of his qualifications as far as we boys went, as he was no good with the persuasiveness of a supplejack, without which no schoolmaster in those days in Port Chalmers did much good. Two notable exceptions who did manage to get on without it were the Rev. Andrew Cameron and Dr J. Closs."

What a blessing for a number of we heroes that Mr McFarlane was only over us for one or two subjects daily otherwise the results would have been serious for us as he was positively cruel. It was a very rare occasion for a parent to interfere in those days with the teacher. I remember on one occasion when I went home after an extra dose of supplejack all the sympathy I got was "Well if you didn't deserve it you wouldn't have got it."

## 2. Growing Up in Port Chalmers in the 1870's

The tremendous growth in the school roll reflected the growth of the town consequent upon the gold rushes of the 1860's. In 1862 accommodation in the town was so hard to get that tents were "dotted over the sward" and pitched in the shelter of the belt of timber which surrounded it. Edward Barton grew up in this area around Iona Church which was known as 'Gooseberry Hill'. His reminiscences provide a schoolboy's view of life at that time.

"My first school was a private one kept by Miss Monteith above the south end of the tunnel. (This appears to have been a common practice). I then went to the old school (in Scotia Street), thence to the present District High School (Ajax Road). There was never at any time adequate playing space and we held our games on the street or on the adjacent hills. I recall with pleasure the many walks home from school with different teachers and one in particular who took us botanising on Saturdays . . . visualize this trip down to

Deborah Bay on a frosty morning (in the 1870's).

"Are you all here?" asks the veteran.

"Yes Sir."

"Off we go."

There is old Bill Forgie coming alongside with his lighter loaded with firewood from Purakanui Bay, glad to get a few pounds of ready money to take back. Further along we spy a bluff-ended, flat-bottomed craft. This proves to be the 'Hope', just in from Waikouaiti.

"Had a good trip Captain Julier?"

"Oh yes, a fair wind and I saw nothing but flocks of mutton birds all the way over."

The graving dock workshop is on the right, with the furnaces roaring and the old 'Dunsi' operating the steam hammer—the largest in New Zealand. What a thudding and thumping as they forge buffers and hooks for the railways before the railway workshops could undertake this kind of work; also big shafts for steamers. The control of this huge steam hammer was wonderful—the operator has been known to place a watch on the anvil and carefully bring the hammer down and crack the watch-glass without doing any damage to the watch. The veteran in charge of the group hurries us along and points out the edible Maori cabbage growing on the hillsides. Oh, here is a lady artist with her easel painting the old deck-house with fishing nets hanging all round, and the French fisherman at the door. The artist invites us to inspect the painting, young though we are. We think it is wonderfully realistic—thanks Miss Wimperis for the view.

On our right is Sutherland's slip and a schooner being constructed for the coastal trade. Soon we reach the 'Cutting' where many a person, young and old, was brought to a standstill when a heavy southerly was raging. Yonder is the floating dock where the Maoris from the Kaik recently brought a whale for exhibition. It soon began to putrefy and the 'hum' of it resulted in a quick exit. Then it was towed back to the Kaik and the oil tryed out.

"What is that steamer turning round and round the beacon for?" asks Junior.

"Oh, they are adjusting the compasses so that she can see to go straight," replies the Veteran.

Here is the cattle track and a punt unloading cattle that have just arrived from Wanganui by steamer. Right here is Jimmy Fletcher's slip with the small s.s. *Ino* on the ways. She is cut in two, each end set back so that a new section of 15 feet can be sandwiched in amidships. (This was done in 1878).

The morning is very cold and frosty and the bay has a coating of ice right across to Goldie's Point. Here we see two men who have just caught a frost fish about five feet long. Right here is the prison hulk and on the road are the prisoners, 60 Maori and European, widening the track. As we turn the point we see a bluff queer-shaped old hooker and are informed she is the Dutch Galliot (the 'Reinau Engelkens') far from her home in Holland. We are then at Isbister's slip with father and son repairing the ketch 'Major'. Across the water we see 'The Ark' withdrawing explosives from the powder magazine, and in the channel between we see several fishing boats going up from the fishing grounds outside the Heads with loads of barracouta for the Dunedin market. They have come ten miles and have another seven to row—hardy men these and they earn a precarious living.

We then notice the two iron lighters 'Trusty' and 'Faithful' which have been towed down from Gisborne. At the corner we find Tunnage's original fish sheds, so all the juniors are shown the fish in all stages of preparation. How deft the men are in removing the 'innards' and boning, then salting and smoking, and the packing of the cured fish, much of which was exported to the Australian market. Not much further interest until we come to Deborah Bay. Here we see two Italian fishermen repairing and tanning nets and the tan pots of rimu bark bubbling. Mr Azzerita supplies us with billy tea and we explore what mother has provided.

We call to see Mrs Mason, a kind German lady always generous with her fruit and sour kraut. While several boys were given a ride on Mr Mason's black mule—'stubborn as a mule' was as true then as it is today—the rest finished our ramble by going up the tramway

to see the sawmill in full blast.

We retrace our steps to the beach and rejoice to see two kind parents with boats to convey us home."

Before 1875 the police camp occupied the site in Ajax Road where the stone school was built. Of this Barton says:

"We saw many a melee between the police and drunken sailors who were being escorted to the cells . . . These sailors were very difficult to handle. The police had to use batons freely, and there was much talk of 'baton brutality'. Constable Coffey was a very doughty man and invariably landed his prisoner. What a distance they had to man-handle these sailors who were raving mad with drink. On some occasions Sgt Mallard would name certain on-lookers and command them "In the Queen's name I request your assistance," and they had to comply or else pay the penalty in court."

But Mount Street also had less grim diversions: "a procession of drays carting stone from the quarries was always in evidence. Marr and Sons' cooperage had a good output . . . nearly every house had two or more wooden water barrels and the whaling vessels took their quota as whale oil containers.

Dodson's emu caused many a precocious boy to scale for his life to escape getting a clout with the long claws from the irate bird."

Important occasions were always celebrated with a half-holiday. Such was the opening of the railway to Dunedin on 24 October 1872. "Port Chalmers was 'en fete' with a great display of ships' bunting. The crowds were very merry . . . The Port Chalmers Hotel and the Railway Refreshment Bar did good business and the last train to leave gave the few officials a foretaste of what many of us saw in the years to come.

The first carriages were small, springless, cross-seated compartment affairs, with doors opening outwards. I did not envy guards Logie and Emerson hanging on for dear life as they scrambled along the footboard collecting tickets or issuing same to passengers from flag stations. It was a great ordeal on a wet, stormy day."

Some boys had already taken trips to Sawyers Bay and Burkes on the Josephine before the line was opened. The piercing of the tunnel was also exciting. J. M. Harland wrote: "a novel sight was the treadmill worked by a horse to force air into the tunnel while the men were at work. There was great excitement when the tunnel was pierced. The contractors rigged up a donkey engine on a truck to assist in making the line and I was delighted to get a ride on it."

### 3. The Stone School, 1875 to 1929

Addressing the Otago Provincial Council on 6 May 1873, the Superintendent, James MacAndrew, said: "In many of the existing school buildings the children are so crowded that there is a choice of two evils—either to withdraw them from school, or to educate their minds at the expense of their bodies. In some of the school houses the accommodation is so limited that it is physically impossible to crowd the children into them."

Nowhere was the problem more acute than at Port Chalmers where, by 1875, there were 207 boys and 194 girls on the roll, with an average attendance of 235. There were five teachers. Mr John Hislop, the Inspector of Schools recommended a new building on the site of the police camp in Ajax Road. This was designed in 1873 by Mr D. Ross, and work commenced the following year. It was built of local stone at a cost of 2,900 pounds and was a handsome, if somewhat severe-looking, building with a tower at the north end and two wings at right angles. The playground area was built out with fill obtained by lowering the roadway—work done by prison labour. The school was ready for occupation in December 1875, just before the annual examinations.

The national Education Act making education free, compulsory and secular was passed in 1877. It also adopted the Scottish system of adding secondary classes to primary schools resulting in a change of title for the school to Port Chalmers District High School.

The roll increased to 580 and three pupil teachers were added to the staff.

Mr McKay resigned in mid 1881 and Mr W. Smith was appointed acting Rector. At the beginning of 1882 the position was offered to Mr Lawrence B. Wood, M.A. who had left Edinburgh the previous year because of ill health. He took up the task within a week of arriving at Port Chalmers; he was only 26. His four year term was marked by two crises—accommodation and Bible reading in schools.

The first problem was temporarily relieved by hiring the Johnstone Hall from the Presbyterian Church, where 110 pupils of Standards One and Two were taught. Plans to extend the school had already been drawn up and both wings were extended, that at the south end having a second tower added. Thus the school was able to cope with its peak roll of 670 pupils.

The second problem could not be solved so readily. While education was to be secular Bible lessons outside of regular hours, with attendance optional, were permitted under the Education Board by-laws. The campaign for Bible reading in Port Chalmers was led by the Presbyterian Minister, the Rev. John Ryley, a very forceful character. The opposition found support in the editors of the Port Chalmers Watch and its successor, the Port Chalmers Independent.

As all teachers know there is nothing like a good controversy to arouse interest in school committee elections. At the end of January 1884 nearly 400 people attended the election meeting. The former committee had offered to allow Bible reading from 9.00 - 9.30 a.m. but the ministers wanted it half an hour later, which would have been in school time. There were sixteen candidates for the seven positions, and though the former chairman, Mayor T. H. Dodson, was returned with 406 votes, supporters of the ministers won the majority of places.

This unleashed some heated correspondence in the local paper:

"I hope all the liberal minded people of the Port will combine together to prevent the system from being tampered with by any fanatics whatever," wrote 'Secularist in Schools' on 1 February." 'Augur', on 8 February, foresaw, "And even now I am not sure those whose duty it is to give the instruction will not try to shift it on to the teachers, for I am told one or more have been heard to say if the teachers refuse they will soon be sent to the right-about and more willing tools be found to supply their places." 'One Thing or the Other' wrote on 22 February, "so our school which has deservedly held a very high place on examination days will be behind others, and the rector lose heart in trying to have the school first in the province."

The first Bible lesson was conducted on 28 February by the Rev. Mr Thomas, accompanied by the new chairman of the committee, Mr Thomson. 'Parent' related to the Port Chalmers Independent what happened, (29 February 1884): "Mr Thomas read a portion from St Mark's Gospel. All was quiet attention while Mr Thomson was there but as soon as his back was turned the larrikin element of the school commenced interruption. Mr Thomas felt very much annoyed but was powerless, and he went on explaining the chapter till a quarter past ten . . ." Only half the pupils had attended, the remainder playing in the yard.

Looking ahead the whole question was raised again in 1919 when a heated debate took place in a crowded Town Hall. Hundreds turned out despite bitterly cold weather and the majority voted to retain the Bible lessons. Though the lessons have lapsed from time to time they continue to the present.

A teacher's view of the 1880's is given by James Rennie who joined the staff from Victoria in 1882. His colleagues were Mr Wood, Mr Turpin, Mr Ivens, Miss Sinclair and Miss Moore.

"The Rector, Mr Turpin and I must have looked impressive for we all wore high-crowned hats to our work. Port Chalmers was a busy and interesting place . . . for the harbour accommodated quite a fleet of sailing vessels; they lay thick at the wharves and quite a string of them at anchor in the stream at Deborah Bay.

It was a great event when the first Home steamer, the Ionic arrived (1884). In honour of

the occasion the captain and officers gave a fancy dress ball in the Foresters' Hall and the citizens afterwards gave a return ball. They were both very brilliant affairs.

Mr John Mill was the first member of the committee who visited the school after I became a member of the staff. I remember him saying, 'Young man, you get your degree and you will be Rector of this school,' (which he did).

The Post Office was the home of hospitality and entertainment. Many happy nights did I spend there. At one time we had a Glee Club there. It was at the Post office that I first used the telephone; one of the attractions of Mrs Downes's parties was use of the telephone. We sang songs to the McDougalls at Quarantine Island and in return they played the harmonium for us."

Mr Wood resigned to become an Inspector of Schools in North Canterbury in 1884 and Mr Turpin acted as Rector until Mr M. Fearnley arrived. Unfortunately his health gave way and Mr John Allardice was appointed in 1886. He had been a master at Otago Boys' High School and had no trouble quashing unruly classes. He became Headmaster of the Kaikorai School in 1889 till his death six years later.

His successor was Mr Charles Chilton, a man of distinguished academic attainment. He was the first man to gain a B.Sc. in New Zealand, and while at Port Chalmers he gained the first Doctorate in Science. In 1922 he wrote: "The six and a half years I spent at the school were very happy ones and the pleasant memories connected with them are frequently renewed by the knowledge of the important and honourable part being played by many of the former pupils."

When Dr Chilton resigned in 1894 Mr Rennie, B.A. returned from Dunedin to begin fourteen years as Rector. During his period kindergarten teaching began at the school under Miss MacMillan, and Attendance Certificates were re-introduced to try to encourage regular attendance. The grounds were used for tennis and music was catered for by the installation of an organ in 1897. Stoves replaced gas heating in the classrooms and a water tank was erected to overcome periodic water shortages.

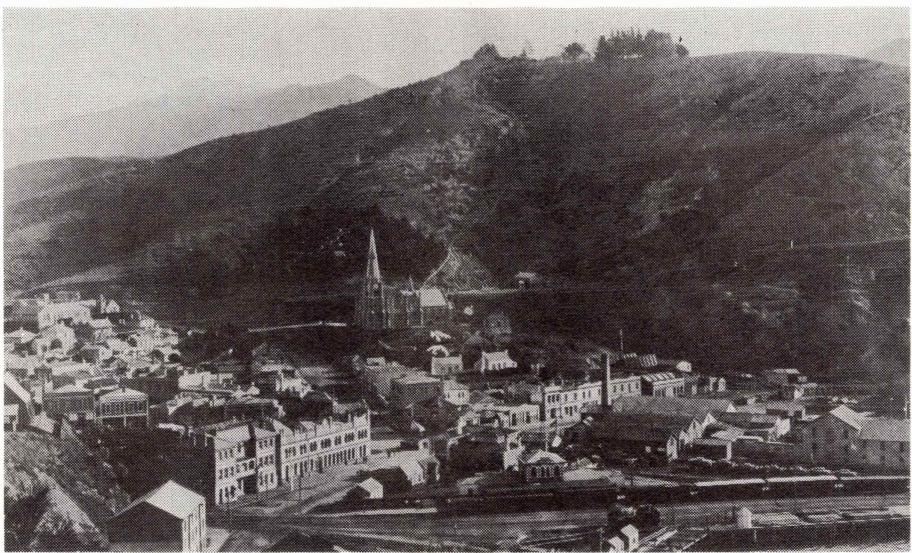
Of the system of education from 1878 to 1902 J. M. Miller says in his history of the Otago Education Board: "The Board appeared to be in full agreement with the strict examination system introduced and also with the type of report its inspectors were using." The inspectors, Mr Petrie and Mr Goyen, were "not young and had an austerity about them which did not encourage friendship between pupils and inspector or inspector and teacher." The curricula "followed the old traditional formal type" in which many children were out of their depth. "The task imposed on the teacher was an arduous one, and often a most unpleasant one. In consequence, as was to be expected, a rigid discipline, the constant use of the strap, excessive 'keeping-in' and heavy burdens of homework were the order of the day."

However in 1899 George Hogben became Inspector-General of Schools and gradually primary education became less academic. The 'Manual and Technical Instruction Act' was quickly taken advantage of in Port Chalmers and the first technical certificates were presented in November 1901. The Mayor, E. G. Allen M.P., pressed for the building of a Technical School and despite opposition from the Education Board, it was commenced in 1903 and opened the next year—the first in New Zealand to be attached to a primary school. Cooking and Woodwork were taught, the latter by Mr Rennie.

Mr Rennie also introduced Physical Education though the first 'Manual of Physical Exercises' was not produced until 1908. To provide more room for games the lower playground was created in 1904. There were then 490 pupils on the roll.

Mr Rennie resigned at the end of 1907 having, as it was written, "identified himself with almost every phase of active life and taken an active part in matters of public interest."

In 1908 Mr George F. Booth, B.A. began his record of twenty-one years as Rector of the school. Former pupils remember him as a 'very strict' and 'very gruff' man. He had a large family for which the old Rectory in Scotia Street was inadequate and a new residence was built in 1913.



*Port Chalmers from Flag Staff 1911—showing the stone school before remodelling, in the left centre.*



*The stone school after remodelling, in the 1930's.*



Port Chalmers District High School Cricket Club 1895 - 1896.

Back Row (left to right): Mr J. Rennie, T. Mooney, A. Cable, D. McCallum, J. Moore, J. Money, Mr T. Hunter.

Middle Row (left to right): P. Lightbourn, W. Neil, W. Waters, N. McDonald.

In Front (left to right): J. McDonald, B. Waters.



Port Chalmers District High School Football Club 1907.

Back Row (left to right): Mr Rodgers, J. Hawkins, ?, F. Smaill, W. Robertson, W. Wilson, A McPherson, Mr Paterson.

Middle Row (left to right): W. Moir, P. Lawson, Saunders, F. Sykes, C. Rennie, T. McPherson, T. Lawson.

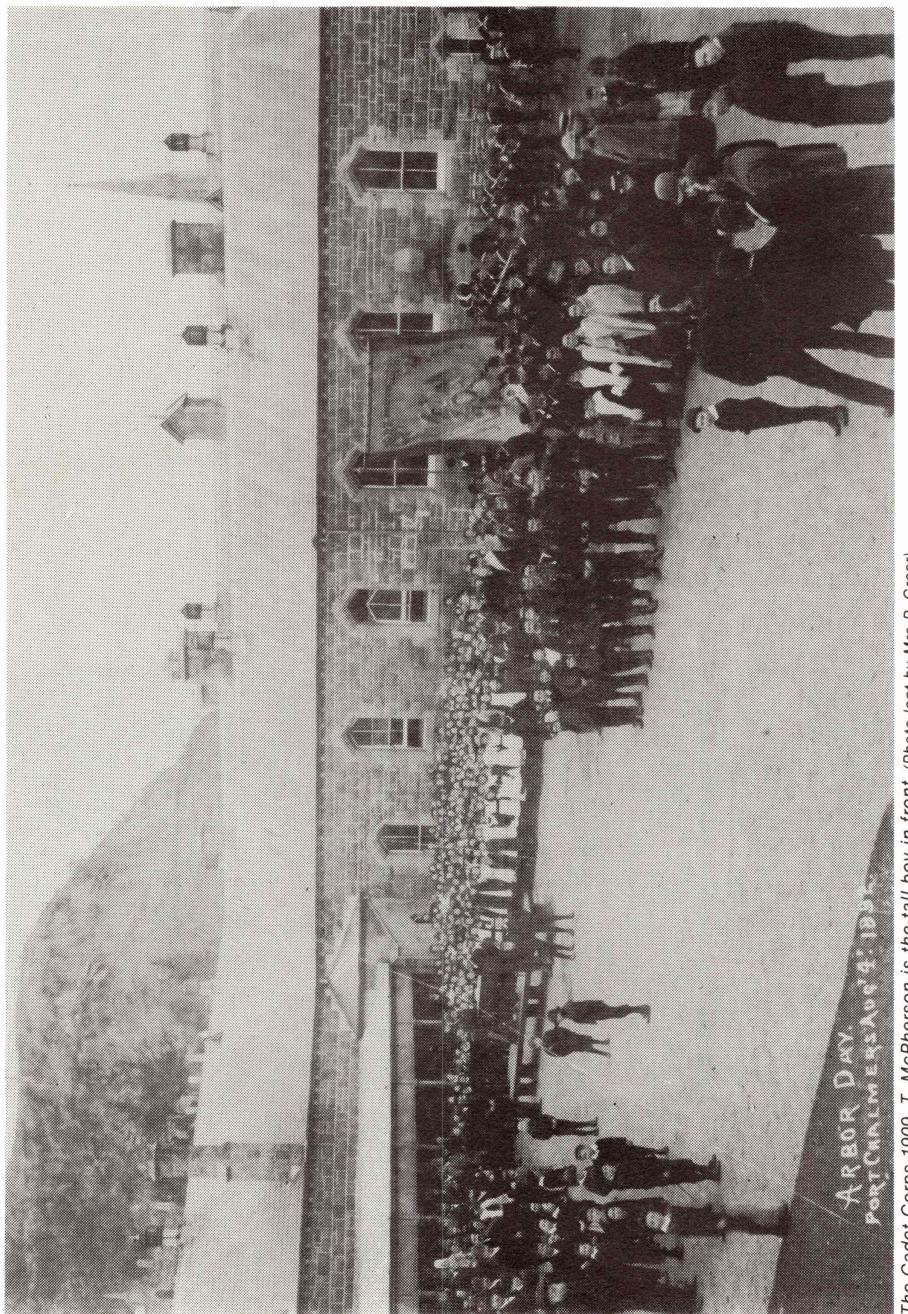
Front Row (left to right): J. Lefieure, A. Hay, N. Campbell, J. McGregor, F. Nelson.



*The Inauguration of Arbor Day, August 1892.*



*Primer III, 1918—several girls hold their dolls; two boys hold their model yachts.*



ARBOR DAY  
Port Clinton Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 1899

The Cadet Corps 1909. T. McPherson is the tall boy in front. (Photo lent by Mrs P. Green).

Mrs G. Welsh (Freida Miller) was both a pupil and a probationer in Mr Booth's early years. She recalls that the pupils assembled by the water tank and marched into school accompanied by the band playing 'The Death of Nelson'. The classrooms were built up in tiers with long desks which had round inkwells, ever a temptation for the dipping of 'pigtailed'. There was no companionship between pupils and teachers in those days. Mr Booth's special interest was in gardening and much work was done in cultivating the grounds around the Manual School.

The 1914 - 1918 war proved a heavy drain on the community with over 250 ex-pupils of the school serving in the armed forces, of whom 60 were killed. A tablet to their memory was unveiled in the school on 11 June 1922 by the Rev. Andrew Cameron, a former pupil and Chancellor of the University of Otago.

Evidently the war had postponed the school's Diamond Jubilee for this was not held until 8 - 11 November 1922. For the occasion the Rev. W. M. Grant, Chairman of the Committee, compiled the first history of the school. The first evening of the celebrations attended by 350 people consisted of items and speeches in the Town Hall. The school concert the following evening was so popular that it had to be repeated the next night. The reunion closed with a successful social evening for those who had attended before 1900, with the staff and committee as their guests.

It was an appropriate time to look over the old school for its was about to be drastically remodelled. The report of the Otago Education Board of 17 August 1923 classed the school as 'probably the worst' for lighting and ventilation. Board architect A. B. Welch drew up plans to replace the narrow windows with large banks of louvre-type panes. To overcome the need to hold classes in the corridor it was proposed to add a second storey at the southern end, the total work to cost over 5,000 pounds. In the event the second storey was not proceeded with and when the remodelling was completed in 1925 the infant room had had to be left. Finance to complete its alteration was not forthcoming until 1930.

Two health matters arose in the 1920's. In May 1924 there was a serious outbreak of diphteria and 56 carriers were found in the school, including the Rector. They had to stay away while the Health Department was approached for inoculation. The Committee expressed disappointment in July that so few had availed themselves of it.

The second concern was dental health and from 1927 the committee vigorously pursued a dental clinic. This was built in the Manual School grounds and opened in June 1931. Children from Waitati to Sawyers Bay were treated at the clinic.

Another concern of the committee was the establishment of the playground at Mussel Bay in which they cooperated with the Borough Council. The roll at this time, 1928, was 377 pupils.

Mr Booth retired from teaching in 1929. Among the many tributes paid to him was the following by the Rev. W. M. Grant: "He was always in touch with the newest in educational methods. He worked hard and his work was not always finished at the end of the school hours. It might be said that he worked day and night. His relations with the pupils had always been of the happiest. The parents trusted and respected him. His school staff had been loyal, and he had been their adviser and helper. Thus the school life had always been harmonious and progressive."

#### 4. Secondary Education, 1869 to 1928

For almost sixty years Port Chalmers School offered secondary as well as primary education. It was a system brought from Scotland where, wrote G. M. Trevelyan, "the half-starved dominies taught the pick of the Scottish democracy, lads taught to make sacrifices to obtain education." For many a pupil of academic ability this system offered the opportunity to advance, particularly through clerical and professional occupations.

The Otago Provincial Council issued an ordinance in 1869: "That the Tokomairiro,

Lawrence, Port Chalmers and Oamaru District Schools be advanced to the status of a Grammar School and that a rector be appointed to each at a salary of not less than 250 pounds per annum"

Secondary pupils came to Port Chalmers by harbour ferry from Portobello and the Otago Peninsula and, once the railway north was opened, from Palmerston, Waikouaiti, Karitane, Waitati and Purakanui, as well as from St Leonards and Sawyers Bay. By 1875 there were 21 secondary pupils with an average age of 13 years 3 months.

The first subjects taught were English, Latin, Algebra, Geometry and Geography. The report of the examinations in 1875 commented:

Geometry Class I 9 pupils Answers moderate to fair.

Algebra Class I 4 pupils Very fairly answered.

Latin Class I 2 pupils Fairly done.

Latin Class II 4 pupils Their papers were very creditable.

Subjects offered at other times included Greek, French, History, Trigonometry, Science, Zoology, Book-Keeping, Mechanical Drawing and Typing.

The school became Port Chalmers District High School in 1877 when this system was adopted by the central government. The roll fluctuated and when times were hard parents could not afford the fees. In 1879 there were only nine secondary pupils studying English and Latin with Mr McKay and Geometry and Algebra with Mr McFarlane.

It was in this year that the Inspector, Mr D. Petrie, castigated District High Schools as "mongrel institutions with a temporary and makeshift constitution." The major problems were lack of specific funding which meant that the more expensive secondary education was offered at the expense of the primary classes, and the undue share of the headmaster's time which the secondary departments demanded.

However since high school education was a very exclusive privilege in those days local people valued the opportunity provided by their own school. In 1897 there were 28 pupils in Class X, sometimes known as Standard Seven. This compares well with the 313 enrolments in all District High Schools in 1899 and the 2,700 in all High Schools.

Scholarships were available for the continuation of secondary education but they were highly competitive and placed a heavy burden on the memory as these sample questions from 1878 illustrate:

**English:** Explain in clear simple language the meaning of the parts in italics in the following passages:

(b) "On the Earl's cheek *the flush of rage* *O'ercame the ashen hue of age.*"

**Geography:** Name the principal capes and rivermouths in the order in which you pass them in tracing the coastline of Europe from the Naze to Gibraltar.

**Arithmetic:** 2. Divide 27 miles, 15 poles, 2 feet by 63 and 2/7.

5. If 35 cwt 3 quarters 14 pounds of tea cost 374 pounds/11 4½ what will be the cost of 73 cwt 2 quarters of the same kind of tea?

**History:** 1. Name the Sovereigns who reigned over Britain during the period from 1688 to 1815 and give the dates of the accession of each.

Port Chalmers students won a due share of these scholarships and a survey of winners from 1879 to 1901 reveals how children whose parents had only moderate means were enabled to gain higher education:

Year	Student	Father's Occupation	Further Schooling and Career
1879	Robert Donald	Engineer	O.B.H.S. M.A.Hons, B.Sc., Tutor.
1883	Robert Ritchie	Contractor	O.B.H.S. Journalist, Melbourne.
1885	William Cron	Deceased	O.B.H.S. B.A. Teacher.
1886	Louisa Downes	Postmaster	O.G.H.S. B.A. Teacher, O.G.H.S.
1888	A. Falconer	Hairdresser	O.B.H.S. B.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch. B.
1890	Annie Bauchop	Builder	O.G.H.S. (Dux 1894).
1894	J. T. Matheson	Farmer	O.B.H.S. Farmer (Was top in N.Z.).
1895	John Mawson	Farmer	P.C.D.H.S.

1897	Alexander Klee	Stonemason	O.B.H.S. Estate Agent.
1898	W. J. Porteous	Teacher	O.B.H.S. Medical Missionary, India.
1899	A. M. Finlayson	Minister	O.B. & Waitaki B.H.S. Geologist, Spain.
1900	Margaret Drysdale	Farmer	O.G.H.S. 2nd, N.Z. Civil Service Exam in 1903.
1901	Robert Olsen		O.B.H.S. Clerk.

(This list is not exhaustive).

In 1900 the authorities proposed to dis-establish the secondary department but reconsidered after local protests. This was fortunate for the following year Hogben increased the funding of District High Schools to 36 pounds a year and 2 pounds per pupil; with 4 pounds per pupil if no fees were charged. He also pushed them towards practical as well as academic subjects which added Rural Science and Typing, for example, to the subjects offered at Port Chalmers. French tended to displace Latin in the curriculum.

From 1910 to 1928 Miss Agnes Sinclair had charge of the secondary department. The roll reached over 40 by 1921 but then began to drop. It had become easier for local pupils to attend schools in Dunedin and pupils from north of Karitane increasingly attended Palmerston District High School. An ominous suggestion was made that District High Schools be disestablished where the local population was less than 5,000. In 1926, for the first time, secondary school inspectors carried out inspections of District High Schools. The 1928 report of Mr E. J. Parr on Port Chalmers was frankly critical:

"The first and chief impression that one receives from a visit to this school is that the secondary department has outlived the need for its existence. The attendance in 1926 was 29, in 1927 it was 22, and this year the roll number is only 19. The steady drop in the roll is bad enough in itself, but more disconcerting still is the fact that there were only five new entrants this year. Obviously the senior classes of the school will be very small next year. Another significant fact is the small local support given to this school; only nine pupils live in Port Chalmers. If the secondary department were closed these could travel to schools in Dunedin at much less cost to their parents than do the children of Andersons Bay, North East Valley or St Clair. Ten pupils travel by rail from as far north as Seacliff and probably attend the Port Chalmers School simply because they cannot obtain a free railway pass to the Dunedin High Schools. At present a much larger number of children from the North Line already attend the Technical or High Schools . . . I left the school with a feeling that the children there were not getting anything like the advantages they should be receiving from a secondary course, and that they would benefit rather than lose by the disestablishment of this secondary department."

Since 59 pupils from the Port Chalmers area were already attending O.B.H.S. and O.G.H.S. the school committee had little grounds for argument. They did protest the loss of time for pupils travelling to Dunedin from the north and claimed that the Agricultural Course insisted on by the Department in 1918 had driven pupils away. It was to no avail and the secondary department closed at the end of 1928.

District High School status had contributed much to the character of the school. The motto 'Na Pai Me Mamahi'—Goodness combined with Work, and the school colours of red and black are reminders of the sixty years of secondary education.

## 5. New Directions, 1930 to 1956

The school entered the new decade with a new headmaster, Mr David Forsyth, and a new system of education. Known as the Dalton Plan it involved each teacher specialising in a subject rather than an age group and preparing schemes of work which allowed each pupil to advance at his own pace. The Chief Inspector, Mr F. G. A. Stuckey, introduced the scheme to be trialed at Port Chalmers with an almost entirely new staff.

Mr L. G. 'Monk' Jack, a former pupil and pupil-teacher who had joined the staff in 1927 was the only teacher retained. He recalled that the new system meant much more

work for the staff. His specialty was Geography for which the Port provided an ideal stimulus. A visit to an overseas ship would be made to find out where it was built and registered, its flag and funnel markings, the type and origin of the cargo and the ship's route.

Over the next few years the school had many official visitors both national and overseas to study the experiment and though not every feature was adopted enough was learnt to make primary education generally more creative and stimulating. This is conveyed very clearly in the pages of 'Koputai Te Karere'—the Port Chalmers Messenger—produced at the school in those years. Confident self-expression, tolerance and humour, and the breadth of school activities are conveyed in the following extracts:

**"Opinions on Our New System:** This year a new scheme has been established at our school and so far it has been a success. Every teacher has his or her own particular subject, which he or she enjoys teaching and for that reason we must benefit from their great stores of knowledge. We are glad to say that we are the only school in New Zealand of this kind, so we have a great honour to uphold, and it is to be hoped every pupil will do his or her best to make the school the best governed and most up to date school in the Dominion."

"In our school we have a new system of education which I do not like. We seem to just get into one room and settled when the bell rings for the end of the period. For example after History we go to our Drawing; the teacher explains what we have to draw when ring goes the bell—off we go to Geography."

"I like the new system because we cannot now have Arithmetic or English in the Singing or Drawing time, while the afternoon seems to go much more quickly. Although I like it in some ways I do not like it in others, for sometimes about three teachers will set homework on the same night."

### Our School by K. Clark

Port Chalmers has a wonderful school,  
New teachers, even a fishing pool,  
Six prefects there are, and many rules,  
A choir, which is not found in many schools.  
An art room, Yes! Some drilling squads,  
A garden where to grow green pea pods;  
Some children even bring the garden seed.  
The sums—they are really hard indeed!  
Pictures there are on every wall,  
Some are big, some are small.  
We have such games of basketball,  
If out of play the ball should fall,  
Miss Morgan gives a whistle call,  
Then the goalies big, defences small,  
Each tries her best to get the ball.  
Each term a magazine we type.  
Of riddles and what e'er we write.

**School News:** Miss Williams has instituted a choir . . . we have commenced to build up a school library . . . (The prefects, led by Harold Mullins) meet every Friday afternoon to discuss the conduct of the children outside of the schoolroom. Their suggestions have been of help in maintaining the good tone of the school . . . When the 'Northumberland' was berthed at Port the instructor of the cadets was invited by Mr Jack and Mr Forsyth to tell us a few of the incidents that took place on the voyage out. It was very interesting, especially the parts where we were given our first visit to the microscope, where we saw that the mosquito is a very fearsome insect. We thoroughly appreciated the visit and would appreciate others of the same type.

**Shipmate News** by D. Fairburn: The 'Rotorua', we noticed, had on her mainmast top a

kiwi. On enquiring we discovered that this is a trophy held by the passenger ship of the New Zealand Shipping Company which has the fastest trip out to New Zealand . . . The Graving Docks are at present experiencing a lean time and the future booking is very indefinite.

**Sports News** by Alec Dougherty: Our cricket season is at last finished and most of us are perhaps pleased for we have not had many matches with other teams. It is the desire of our headmaster that next season we will have house to house matches between standards under the charge of the various teachers. Football has arrived, hurrah! A meeting of all boys who were at all interested in football met in the Std 6 room where Mr Jack, our sportsmaster, was chairman. (Elections resulted in) Club Captain—Jack Donaldson; Secretary—Alec Dougherty. We have entered a 'B' team which we have every hope of carrying off the flag, as we are under the coaching of Mr Jack. We most certainly have to work at our practices . . . Practice days at the Rec are on Tuesday and Thursday but we are taught much of the game in the schoolroom.

**Basketball:** This season has been a very successful one for the girls' basketball teams. We have two teams, both of which have upheld the honour of the school on the field. The 'A' team has won both of the matches played against Sawyers Bay, and one against Ravensbourne. We also had a successful day's play one Saturday when we received two teams from the Kaikorai School. We were certainly not successful in winning either of the matches but made up for this in the forming of many friendships which we are sure will last many a day. After the games the remainder of the time was spent in relay races, other games and last but not least, afternoon tea.

Our 'B' team is improving; they have lost their game against Sawyers Bay but defeated Portobello. We wish to thank Miss Morgan for all the time she has devoted to our instruction. We appreciate it. We congratulate Sybil Morton on being chosen to represent Otago in their match against Southland.

#### **A Story: Life of a Maori Girl Before 1840** by Areta Pybus, Std 5.

When I was at the Kaik a few years ago I met an old Maori wahine. I was so interested in her that one afternoon she told me her life story. In 1835, in a little Maori whare, not far from where we were at the time, she was born; and I might even tell you her name: it was Hinemoa Potiki.

Her first memory was of watching her brothers playing with some beautifully shaped sticks. As she grew older she too joined in with them. When she was about 12 years of age her mother died and she being the eldest girl was left to do the work of the house. How well she remembered digging holes in the ground and lining them with stones to make the oven. On these stones she would make her fire to get them thoroughly hot, then remove the fire and cover the stones with leaves. She next placed the food on leaves, covering it again with further leaves; the whole she covered with mud.

What a simple method of washing she had. The family's clothes were gathered and taken down to the beach. There they were dipped in the water, a smooth stone was selected and each garment in turn was laid over it and banged with another wet stone.

She also recollects weaving many mats for the family. When she was about twenty she was allowed to join in the poi dances.

The warriors did more dancing, but of a different nature. One night they heard roaring war cries of an enemy tribe. They had broken through the palisade, but the defenders jumped out and soon the invaders were forced out of the pa. As a young woman she remembered Mr Watkins coming to visit them. At first they resented his coming; but ere long they learned to love him and accepted his teaching gladly.

As she looks back on her past years she sees the remarkable change that has taken place and all as a result of the coming of the missionary. Now they live in peace, with no fear of interference.

**A Poem:           The Last Voyage of the Broxton** by Peter Ward.

The Broxton was a wooden ship,  
Her timbers hewn from many a tree,  
The Board of Wise Men sank her deep,  
No more to sail upon the sea.

But in the night the waves arose,  
The winds began like wolves to howl,  
And from her grave in Careys Bay,  
The Broxton then began to prowl.

Slinking by Miller and Tunnage's,  
Then slowly past the wharves in gloom,  
Until by Queen's Drive Boating shed,  
She stuck fast in another tomb.

The morning sun at length appeared,  
The mists which hid her then did clear,  
And people rubbed their sleepy eyes,  
And wildly all began to stare.

For there across the ship channel,  
With both ends hard and fast,  
The Broxton lay and barred the way,  
No other vessels could get past.

In course of the day the tug appeared,  
And Captain Page towed her away;  
She's buried now at the Big Dock,  
Perhaps she'll rise again some day.

**Humour:** Q. Why is George Street, Port Chalmers, like a river?

- A. Because there is a bank on either side of it.
- Q. How would a thin lady get fat?
- A. Go to Harrison's.

An examination howler: To what company do the vessels belong which have yellow funnels and black hulls?

Answer: The Love Construction Company.

What funny things we notice at times! We had one of our lads who was discovered in the middle of a football match combing his hair. What is coming next? He will never be an All Black."

On a less pleasant note the early 1930's brought depressions, cuts in funds and the raising of the school commencement age to six. As early as May 1931 there were 120 local men registered as unemployed and the School Committee were in trouble for employing a pensioner instead of one of these. The school authorities tried to see that no pupils went undernourished.

There was also a bad outbreak of influenza in 1931 which curtailed celebrations of the school's 75th anniversary. A small ceremony was held at the school.

A new bell from the old Moray Place School was presented in May 1931 and a piano was purchased the following year. A few years later a loudspeaker system was installed and looms were purchased for craft work. The 'Milk in Schools' scheme began in 1937. The lower playground had subsided and become dangerous and was permanently closed in 1938.

Mr Forsyth's progressive era came to an end when he resigned in 1941. In the preceding 47 years the school had had only three headmasters, a distinct advantage in providing stability and continuity. In the next seven years three headmasters passed through in rapid succession. Mr L. J. Broomfield had only begun to become involved in the community as a member of the Borough Council and Secretary of the Emergency Precautions Scheme when he was transferred in 1943 to open an intermediate school at Invercargill. Mr W. A. Scott stayed for two years before taking up promotion in Auckland and Mr A. C. Knotman was in charge for three years before moving to Forbury School. His organisational ability and friendly nature are still remembered. Just before the end of his term Port Chalmers celebrated the Otago Centennial with a re-creation of the arrival of the first settlers in which staff and pupils participated.

Mr G. S. Gillespie was headmaster for the next seven years, 1949 to 1956. He was a gentleman who took a genuine interest in his pupils. Some of the old features of the school such as marching and boxing were dispensed with and new initiatives made. With generous help from the community and the Home and School Association which Mr Gillespie established the school acquired a new film projector, duplicator, sewing

machine, football jerseys and additions to the library. At this time too Mr Richdale began his visiting Nature Study lessons.

From 1931 when the roll was 301 but from 1951 the post-war baby boom began to be felt. This placed a strain both on teaching space and teaching staff. From 1953 when the roll reached 394 it was again necessary to have classes in the Presbyterian schoolroom. New teachers were provided through a "pressure-cooker" course of shortened training. Men like Messrs A. G. Innes, R. Blair, A. Moir and D. S. Cunningham brought experience from other walks of life into their classrooms and school life generally.

The great waterfront strike of 1951 brought hardship to some in the community and the pupils picked up such political jokes as "Why does Mr Holland (P.M.) want to leave his farm? Because there are too many barns and hills on it—Barnes and Hill being President and Secretary of the national waterfront union.

Another sort of joke arose from the practice of ships' crews of painting their ships' names on the old quarry face. The unwary pupil could always be caught with the statement that "The 'Rangitiki' is on the rocks."

In 1952 the old school in Scotia Street, which had served as the Public Library, was demolished. The stone school now came under threat. The Borough Council began asking for a new school in 1953 and three years later planning commenced for a new ten-roomed school to be built on reclaimed land at Mussel Bay. Planning was also being undertaken for a school learners' pool and for the school's centennial. Before any of the projects reached fruition Mr Gillespie resigned and was succeeded by Mr C. P. Beck of Balfour.

## 6. Reaching One Hundred, 1956

Port Chalmers was determined to suitably celebrate the school centennial as a landmark in history of the town. A Centennial Committee was formed with Mr W. J. Johnston as Chairman and Treasurer, Mr J. S. Thorn as Secretary and Messrs W. G. Love and H. S. Watson as Executive Members. The members of the Committee who had responsibility for particular functions such as the Ball and the Banquet were Mesdames A. Syme, J. Harrison, B. Montgomery, B. Braithwaite, M. Morgan, L. Hoskins, E. Lawson, J. Turner and J. Dalziel and Messrs A. Innes, M. Innes, R. S. Jack, E. Cassie, L. Hawkins, J. Osborn, S. Hardy, P. Lewis, J. Thompson, R. MacDonald, J. Potter, D. S. Paris and C. P. Beck, the Headmaster.

Mr Paris wrote the history of the school and afterwards made a record of the centennial celebrations:

"For the benefit of the present-day pupils a very successful function was held in the Garrison Hall on Thursday 16 August 1956. This was largely financed by Mr Tom Harrison senior. In the afternoon the infant pupils and those up to Standard 2 had a fancy dress party and various games, followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea. In the evening, which was again a fancy dress show, folk dancing was engaged in, and this was followed by a very festive supper party. Parents and friends were invited to both functions. The following morning I gave a talk on the history of the school to pupils from Standard 3 upwards. Prior to going over to Johnstone Hall for this purpose I talked for a few moments to the younger pupils, and pointed out to them the sites of previous schools. Some of the questions which followed were quite amusing, and showed quite a remarkable degree of intelligence on behalf of the youngsters. A replica of the photos in the Centennial Booklet, showing the first and second schools as well as the present school before and after remodelling, was given to the youngsters when the teachers were distributing the Centennial badges. These badges had been sent to each enrollee together with a 'name plate' card which everyone wore on their coat during the celebrations.

The following week on Wednesday 22 August a Teenage Party was held in the Pioneer Hall, mainly to cater for those pupils who had left school within the last year or so, and

were not yet of an age when they could attend either the banquet or the centennial ball.

The first of the celebrations proper commenced on Friday 24 August and this was an outstanding success. It was just an informal get-together in the Garrison Hall and was attended by upwards of 1,000 ex-pupils. The conductress of the Ladies' Harmonica Band said that whilst the band was playing she could not even hear the music for the noise of the continuous chatter. The "oohs" and "ahs" and the "surely not you" that we heard as we went round the hall was evidence of the gay informality of the whole evening. The ladies committee did a wonderful job in providing supper for the crowd.

On the Saturday morning, which dawned somewhat overcast, 1,600 ex-pupils, ex-teachers and ex-committeemen formed up in the various decades on the old recreation grounds and marched through George Street and up Mount Street to the school led by the Port Chalmers Marine Band; also in the procession was the Dunedin Highland Pipe Band. The present day pupils marched in the rear of the column. The town had been very gaily decorated—flags and bunting, and at night the coloured lights on both sides of the main street did much to add to the festive air that was everywhere apparent. Most of the shops had special displays of old photos and other momentos and even the ships in port entered into the spirit of the occasion—flags were displayed from stem to stern and at night coloured lights were in evidence up the foremasts and across the bridges. The school itself looked a picture; it was floodlit at night, and there was a big archway of greenery at the gates with a welcome sign.

At the school where everyone remained in their decade columns an official welcome was given by the Chairman, Mr W. J. Johnston. Brief remarks were made by Mrs E. E. McMillan, M. P., the Mayor, Mr T. Anderson and Mrs A. Davidson, representing the Otago Education Board. A roll call was then held after which various decade photographs were taken by the official photographer, Mr C. J. Leeden. The Centennial Cake was cut by the oldest ex-pupil, Mrs D. Young (95) and morning tea was served in the various classrooms by the ladies committee and their helpers. Again there could be seen in various parts of the playground small groups of people indulging in further reminiscences. By the time this function had ended it was almost time to proceed to the site of the new school where the foundation stone was laid by Mrs McMillan.

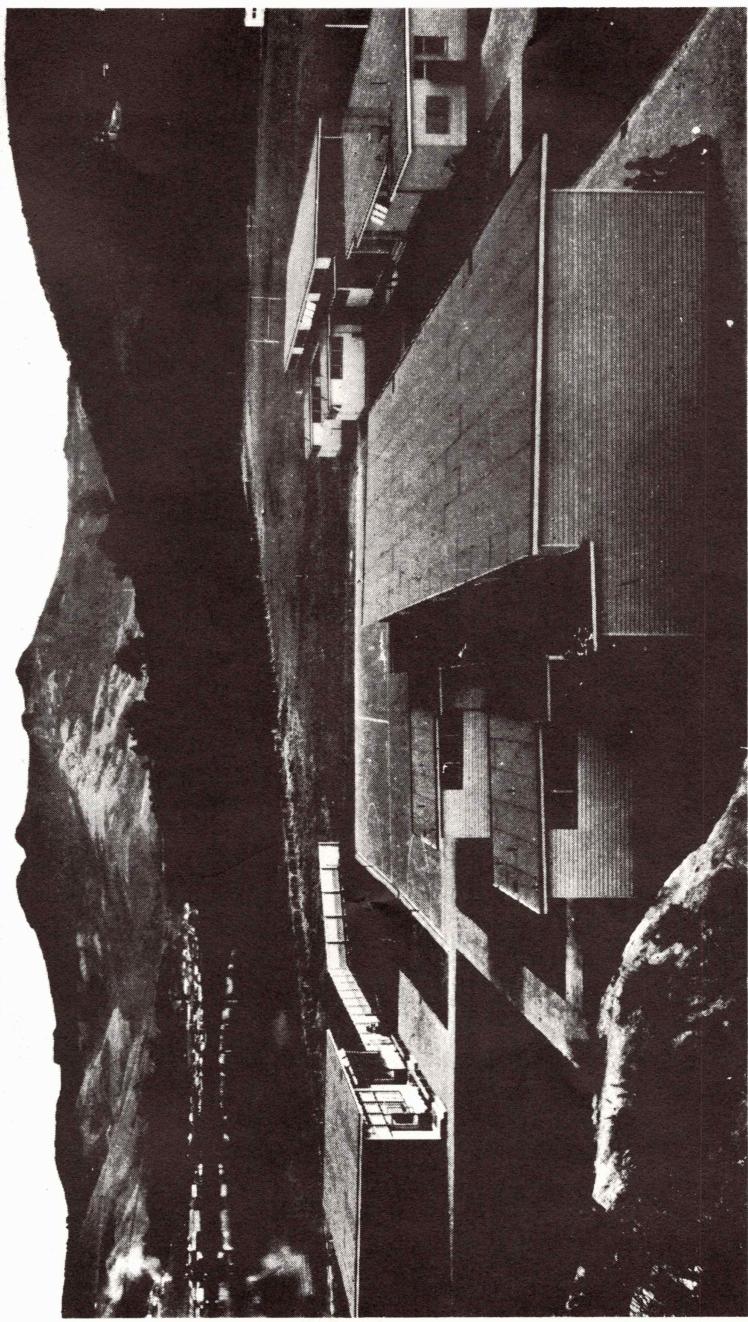
The Banquet, which was held in the Savoy Restaurant, Dunedin, was attended by some 720 people. This necessitated the opening of the Somerset Lounge upstairs and in this were accommodated the eighth, ninth and tenth decades. The Savoy provided a wonderful setting for the banquet which proceeded very smoothly, and the liquid refreshments which had been added to by the Committee were savoured by most. Mr Johnston welcomed everyone and toasts were proposed to the Queen, the School, the Otago Education Board, the School Committee past and present, and the teachers past and present.

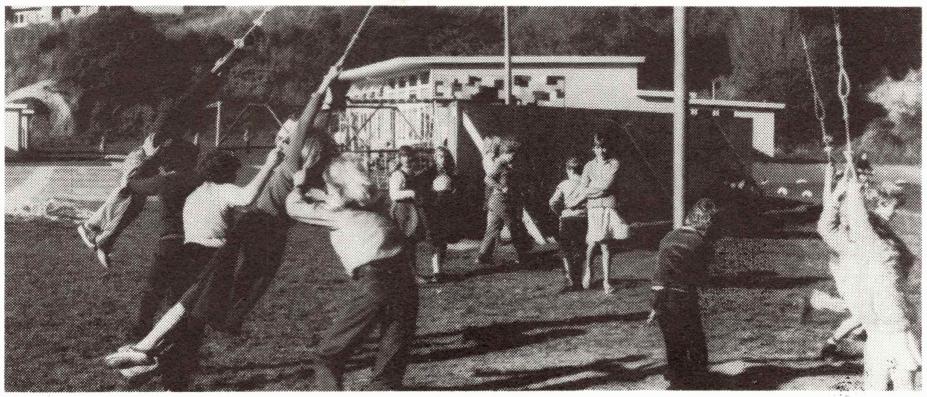
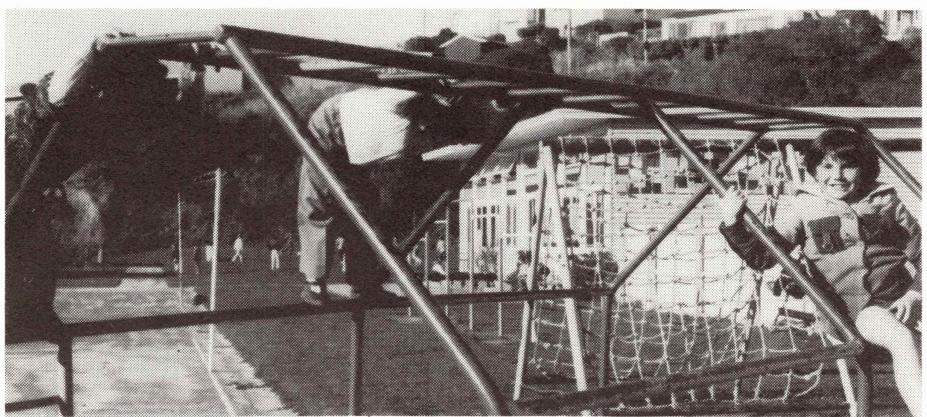
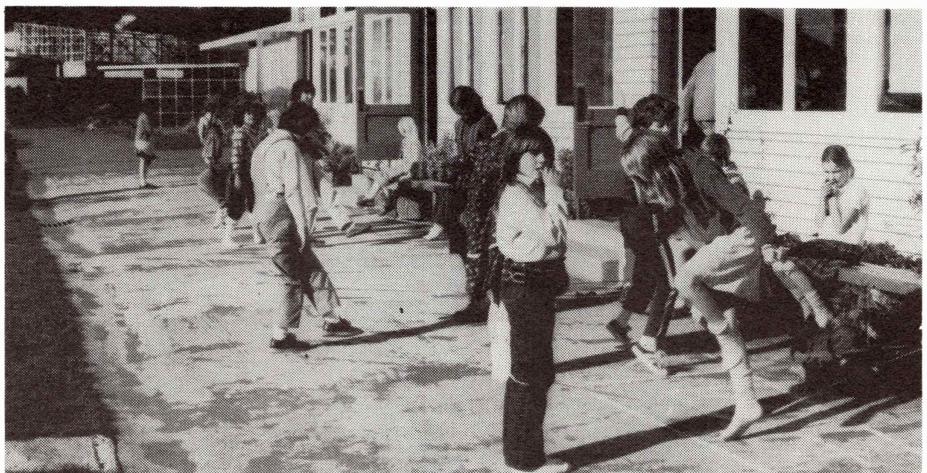
On Sunday at 2.30 p.m., prior to the combined Church service in the Presbyterian Church at 3 o'clock, a short ceremony was held at the Cenotaph where a wreath was laid on behalf of the ex-pupils by Mrs Young and the Senior Prefects of the school laid a wreath on behalf of the present day pupils. The service in the church was conducted by the Rev. Gordon Taylor and the church was crammed to capacity. Mr Taylor spoke feelingly of the occasion and during the service Mr Johnston took the opportunity to express the thanks of the Committee to the combined choir, which had been co-opted from the various churches in the town.

Unfortunately the next day was quite a boisterous one and the children's sports afternoon was postponed. Some wonderful books had been purchased for prizes, and in addition certificates had been printed for everyone who participated.

The Centennial Ball held in the Dunedin Town Hall on the night of Monday 27 August was an outstanding success. Some 900 people were in attendance, and the mural on the stage, which had been done by Mr McGregor, was remarked upon by all. The presentation of the twenty debutantes to Mr Linn, who deputized for the Chairman of the Education Board, added a touch of something to the show. The catering for the supper was superb.

*Photographs of the new school from the Annual Report of the Otago Education Board for 1957.*





*Recent School Activities (from Alex Innes and Garry Bain).*



125th Anniversary Committee.

Back Row (left to right): Mrs Watkins, Mrs Morrison, Mrs Rae Spiers, Les Aitcheson (Treasurer),  
Mrs Gaynor Wheeler, Miss Dorothy Dale, Mrs Tot Black.

Front Row (left to right): Mrs Janet Burnn, Chris Pyke, Mrs Noi Hudson (Secretary), J.S.T. (Chairman),  
Mrs Rees, M. G. Campbell.



Teachers.

Back Row (left to right): Heather Wilkie, Gary Bain, Adrene Turner, Bob Wilson (Caretaker),  
Brenden Hillsnelly (Principal), Alex Innes.

Front Row (left to right): Christine Arnesen, Margaret Wright (Secretary), Elizabeth Larkins (S.T.S.C.),  
Nurse Kindley, Narina Bennett.

A brief survey of the history of the school was published and the thousand copies ordered found a ready sale.

The celebrations were an outstanding success, people coming from all parts of New Zealand, from Australia and even Mrs Loud, formerly Ada Munro, from the U.S.A. A tribute must be paid to Mr W. J. Johnston who not only did the job of Treasurer but was a most competent Chairman, giving to each function that touch of dignity that is desirable."

## 7. The Present School, 1957 to 1981

Following the centenary the school had only one more year in the stone building. The committee and staff spent a great deal of time during 1957 preparing for the move to Mussel Bay. Among the more important questions were the planting of shelter and amenity trees and shrubs, the desirability of new furniture, access to the new school from Wickliffe Terrace and the resiting of the dental clinic.

During the year Mr Beck re-established a house system to inspire better work and behaviour. The houses were named Koputai (Red), Taiaroa (Yellow), Otakou (Blue) and Aramoana (Green). Today the houses are more generally referred to by their colours. The system is particularly valuable in sports where senior pupils get the opportunity to provide leadership to the juniors.

From 12 December 1957 the old school corridors no longer echoed to the recitation of tables, children singing and the sounds of lessons. The loss of the traditions associated with the old building were more than compensated for by the spacious classrooms with plenty of storage space and facilities for art and craft work and for the first time in the school's history, more than adequate playing fields.

The new school was officially opened on 1 March 1958 by Mr D. W. Meldrum, Chairman of the Otago Education Board and Mrs E. E. McMillan M.P. The occasion was taken to give a swimming demonstration in the new learners' pool and an exhibition by the St Clair Surf Life Saving Club. The school had cost 44,400 pounds.

Later in the year a new dental clinic was erected in the grounds and a new memorial plaque was mounted at the entrance to the Administration Block to replace the old memorials which would have been out of character in the new school. This was dedicated on 16 November. It reads: "In honour of those former pupils of this school who served in the Boer War, First World War, Second World War and Korean War, and especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice."

The Lands Department were anxious to get rid of the old school which was sold to Mr M. Taylor for demolition in May 1959. He found the building "very sound". Much of the stone was sold for retaining walls and the site became sections for modern homes.

The new grounds took some time to bring into order and loose sand and gravel caused problems with the floors and for the caretakers. Playground climbing equipment was installed in 1959 and proved very popular. The 'Burma Track' from Wickliffe Terrace caused continuing problems and it was closed in favour of the Baths track. Treeplanting on the bank over the years has gradually transformed a wilderness area though not without problems of weeds and slips. Treeplanting on the seawall has been less successful, only a row of hardy but unattractive macrocarpas surviving the salt air. The wooden buildings have suffered from the weather and salt spray and have needed extensive repairs to keep them weatherproof. Occasional acts of vandalism have been another price to pay for the more spacious and open grounds.

Having seen the school securely established in its new home Mr Beck resigned in August 1960. The School Committee expressed their sincere appreciation "for his work both in teaching the children and his unstinted use of his own time in attending all committee meetings and other school functions together with his labour on the learners' pool, playground apparatus and various other projects."

Mr W. McNaughton took up the position of headmaster the following term during

which the school reached its peak post-war roll of 416. He introduced new methods of financing the extra facilities not provided by the government. The annual Flower Show in the Garrison Hall was replaced by direct donations from parents of 1 pound per pupil a year. This was supplemented by fairs held at the school and from bottle drives. Another innovation was the holding of a cross country run in August 1962.

A visit to the school by the Governor General, Sir Bernard Ferguson, on 3 August 1963 was an outstanding success. Pupils from Sawyers Bay, Purakanui and the Convent School joined in for the occasion.

For most of 1964 Mr Sam McAlpine, who had taught at the school in 1930, acted as Relieving Headmaster while Mr McNaughton studied at Otago University. The roll had been steadily falling resulting in the down-grading of the school and at the end of 1965 Mr McNaughton moved on to Green Island. He was succeeded by Mr M. Toomey. By 1967 the roll had shown an increase to 365 pupils.

The Manual School had continued on its old site in Ajax Road but as transport to Dunedin had become much easier with the new highway the Education Board proposed to close it in 1967. The School Committee suggested moving the building to Mussel Bay but in 1968 it was closed and since then woodwork and cookery have been taken at the Balmacewen Intermediate School.

During Mr Toomey's term Port Chalmers School began to participate in the Education Board's outdoor education programme which is more fully dealt with in the next chapter. In his report for April 1973 Mr Toomey said: "We have been fortunate in retaining the services of permanent staff, some for a number of years. This has meant very few relievers, but more importantly the children have had the benefit of top-rate teaching, especially from the long serving local teachers, Miss A. Johnston, Mr Innes and Mr Bain, who, I believe, have rendered outstanding service to this School."

When Mr Toomey resigned at the end of the first term 1973 to take up an advisory position with the Education Department the Chairman of the School Committee, Mr B. Malcolm said, "He has left the school and its pupils strong in heart, determined in purpose and confident of the future."

Mr A. M. Smith served as Acting Principal for a term until Mr S. J. Kermode arrived from Blenheim at the start of the third term. Mr Kermode introduced new initiatives in the reading and mathematics programmes. The 'Scott Foresman Systems Approach' to reading had only been recently introduced into New Zealand and was new to Otago. Playground activities were extended with the construction of a sandpit and the addition of volley ball and padda tennis. Open days were held at the school to allow parents to see the new developments but interest was a little disappointing.

Speaking of these developments in 1975 Mr Kermode said: "There are new developments coming forward all of the time but we do not rush in and jump on the band wagon just for the sake of being 'with it'. Because we believe that all of the basics which applied to schools years ago are still just as important (Parents) will find us doing such 'old fashioned' things as teaching the alphabet, tables and spelling, and demanding discipline and respect from the children."

To help finance improvements in teaching aids over the next few years staff and pupils sold plastic bags and sponges, conducted a bottle drive and held a 'Spellathon' and a 'Mathathon'. During 1976 nearly \$1,000 was spent on equipment including a trampoline and a film projector. Help for the latter came from the Port Chalmers Waterside Workers' Union and the Lions Club. To encourage reading four 'Listening Posts' and seven tape recorders were acquired. Mr Kermode moved to a new Open Plan school at Wainuiomata in September 1977 and Mr Smith again acted as principal until the end of the year.

It was during this time that the Otago Education Board suggested removing the Form I and II pupils to Dunedin North Intermediate School. This move had been fore-shadowed in 1972 when Sawyers Bay School had been 'decapitated' and the then Committee had resolved to oppose any such move at Port Chalmers. The question was heatedly debated as parents sought to weigh up the pros and cons of the idea. A public meeting chaired by the mayor, Mr Thorn, was convened in the Town Hall on 28 November to hear both

sides. The decision was made to retain Forms I and II at Port Chalmers which remains one of the few non-contributing primary schools in the Dunedin Urban Area.

Mr H. M. Dowall commenced as Principal in 1978. He soon re-established the Parent Teacher Association and guided it into areas where it could best serve the school. An 'Adventure Playground' was built consisting of a fort, flying fox, maypole and stepping stones. The school buildings received a face-lift and were brightened with large murals painted by the pupils. Lessons were organised around themes such as Conservation which gave the children scope for many inside and outside activities. Cultural horizons were broadened with visits to the New Zealand Army Band and the New Zealand Ballet, as well as participation in the usual Music Festival and School Camps.

From 1972 the school roll had remained below 300, dropping each year until it is now just under 200. The school was twice reduced in grade and consequently Mr Dowall's stay was short and he moved to Balmacewen at the end of the first term of 1980. During the term that Mr J. G. Bain acted as principal the practice of flying the flag at the school was re-introduced. One of the classrooms was converted into a Language Room with a puppet theatre and activity bays for such things as reading, listening to stories recorded by local people, miming and cooking. Parents assisted to carpet and furnish the room.

One welcome consequence of the falling roll has been the establishment of a properly laid out and furnished library in a classroom. Originally the library was in a small room in the Administration Block; this is now the Infant Resource Room. The Library has a separate storeroom, carpet tiles, padded chairs and metal shelves. The third unused classroom houses equipment for physical education.

Mr B. Hill-Scully commenced his appointment as Principal in the third term of 1980. He is no stranger to Port Chalmers, having taught in the old school in 1948 - 1949. Both the school and Port Chalmers have changed considerably since then. The Container Port and the possibility of heavy industry being established at Aramoana are developments which will have considerable effect on the school and will present to the staff and pupils challenges equal to those of the past 125 years.

## 8. Outside the Classroom

The School has always been concerned to foster interest in such non-classroom activities as music, sport, gardening and civic projects. Pupils have been able, at different times, to participate in military cadets, school concerts, camps, picnics and excursions.

Music was on the curriculum from the beginning judging by the programme of the first school concert in January 1857 when both a choir and 'instruments' performed. The children were also treated to magic lantern and fireworks displays. One of Mr Reid's earliest reports notes that 20 pupils could do "vocal music from note." James Rennie's rectorship saw the installation of an organ in 1897 and the establishment of a Fife and Drum Band which not only played for morning assemblies but also performed on civic and charitable occasions. The band had up to 40 members who looked quite resplendent in their peaked caps, blue tunics with red collars and blue shorts with a red side band.

A concert programme from March 1910 shows pupils performing choruses, recitations, solos, action songs and 'Building up the Flag'. At the Jubilee Celebrations in 1922 the School Concert, with songs and dances was one of the highlights. Though the band did not continue beyond the early 1920's music flourished with the acquisition of a gramophone and records in 1924 and the replacement of the organ by a piano in 1932. A school choir was restarted in 1930 beginning a tradition which was boosted by the institution of the Dunedin Primary Schools' Choral Festival in 1951, conducted for many years by Mr V. Drew. The school still participates in this event. Folk dancing was taught by Mr L. Jack and others and was performed regularly for many years.

Mr N. Glengarry in the 1950's did much to widen the range of music and guitars, recorders and percussion instruments gave many more pupils the opportunity to become actively involved in making music. The school choir performed at the reopening of the

# - Programme -

Concert March 11<sup>th</sup> 1910

- 1 Chorus - "Clap Clap Hurrrah"
- 2 Recitation - "Two Little Girls" (Mrs Spencer & Nuttall)
- 3 Recitation - "Puff" (Fouell Walsh, Son Kirkwood)
- 4 Action Song - "Little Soldiers"
- 5 Recitation - "The Cat's Tea Party"
- 6 Solo & Chorus - "The Fox Jumped" (Leslie Jack)
- 7 Recitation - "The New Baby" (Margaret Mitchell)
- 8 Chorus - "Nightcaps"
- 9 Recitation - "The Little Angel" (Doris Cooney)
- 10 Chorus - "Three Little Pigs"  
(Little ones come down from stage)
- 11 Recitation - "Granny's Tale" (Hilda Harland)
- 12 Action Song - "Song of the Handkerchief"
- 13 Recitation - "Chatter Chitter" - (Leslie Jack)  
(Put up chairs for Railway train)
- 14 Action Song - "The Railway Train"
- 15 Dialogue -
- 16 Building of the Flag  
— God Save the King —

remodelled Town Hall in 1957. Recent School Committees have continued to provide instruments to foster music in the school.

Organised sport in the early years must have been handicapped by the lack of school grounds. The boys learnt 'drill' as part of the cadet activities which began under Mr Reid. Shooting was also associated with cadets, the boys using the butts of the local Volunteers. In 1906 the school had the Champion Firing Team in the South Island. Cricket had developed by the 1890's for in the 1894 - 1895 season the Port Chalmers High School Cricket Club were the first winners of the 'Bing Harris Shield'. The team was coached by Mr Rennie and Mr Hunter.

Rugby was also strong at the school and few teams could have had a better record than the 1910 team which won the School Rugby Union Flag with 9 wins from 9 games, scoring 294 points and having only three points scored against them. Their coach, Jimmy Hay, played for Otago, as, subsequently, did many members of the team.

For girls basketball was usually the main sport. When Miss Connie Middleton taught at the school girls' hockey became a strength. In more recent years several boys have been primary school representatives in hockey. Tennis is a sport which has waxed and waned over the years and softball and soccer have had periods of popularity.

Athletic sports have long been part of the school activities and up to the 1950's pupils annually participated in the Dunedin 'Zone Sports'. This had the disadvantage of not involving the whole school and during Mr Beck's headmastership the 'Harbourside Sports Meetings' were introduced. This brings together up to 800 pupils from Port Chalmers, Sawyers Bay, St. Leonards, Maia, Ravensbourne, Purakanui and the Convent School for summer athletics and games and winter sports. A typical athletics programme involves all pupils in ring games in the morning with competitive field and track events in the afternoon.

Swimming instruction appears to have become a concern of the school in 1906 after a survey showed that only 28 boys and one girl from a roll of 432 could swim. Swimming classes were held at 'Monkey Beach' on the peninsula and, with the cooperation of the Dock Trust in later years, in the partially filled docks. When Mussel Bay was being reclaimed a 'convenient' break in the pipeline created a sandy beach at Back Beach which was then used for swimming instruction. As pollution became more of a problem thoughts turned to having a learners' pool at the new school site in Mussel Bay. Planning commenced in 1956 and work began the following year using voluntary labour supervised by Mr Harold Mullins. The pool, 45 feet by 18 feet, was built of reinforced concrete with concrete block dressing sheds. It was ready for use by December 1957 though not officially opened until March 1958 to coincide with the official opening of the new school. The convenience of the pool proved a boost to school swimming and in the following years the pool was painted and a filtration plant installed under the leadership of Mr John Kenton.

When the Public Swimming Pool was opened in 1961 the school was able to hold its annual swimming sports there. Once the public pool was heated the learners' pool became less popular and it has not been used for several years. At various times promising pupils have received extra coaching at the Moana Pool in Dunedin.

Playground games have had their fashions. Marbles, a perennial favourite, are less often played today. Crazes such as knuckle bones and hula hoops have had their day. In the early 1950's rounders was an exciting game, especially when Mr Blair and Mr Moir participated and sent the ball over the old school to the top railway line. The current skateboards and roller-skating revival have their devotees among the pupils. More organised activities are gymnastics and orienteering.

School picnics were once held annually, the Kaik at Otakou being a popular venue, involving as it did a trip by boat. Later on train excursions to Evansdale and to Mosgiel were organised. An ambitious excursion was held in 1907 when pupils over ten were taken to view the Christchurch Exhibition. Holidays and visits have been arranged for such events as the opening of the Otago Dock, 30 June 1909, the visit of H.M.S. New Zealand, mid 1913, and the Dunedin and South Seas Exhibition in 1926 when Isaac Stevenson financed a visit for all pupils. Special arrangements have been made for Royal Tours such as the

visits of the Prince of Wales in 1920, the Duke of York in 1927 and the Queen in 1954.

Arbor Day was instituted in 1892 and photograph taken on 4 August that year shows an impressive gathering of people in the school grounds. Trees have been planted in the Town Belt, around Mussel Bay and in the new school grounds with the cooperation of the Borough Council. As part of their Civic Club activities recent pupils have laid out an attractive garden at the entrance to Albertson Avenue.

An annual break up ceremony was inaugurated in 1915. Originally it was held in the Town Hall but later in the school grounds. The highlight for the pupils was always the ice-cream or soft-drink provided. It has been usual too to hold a function for those pupils leaving from Form II. The School Committee used to provide a formal dinner at the school but this has been varied recently with barbeques, visits to Dunedin and a picnic at Quarantine Island.

During the Second World War the school adopted the Haslingden School, Lancashire, England with which it exchanged gifts and letters. An additional link was provided by visits of the ship 'Sussex' which was the adopted ship of Haslingden. In 1949 the school adopted its own ship, the 'Port Chalmers', a fortunate survivor of the war-time Malta convoys. The master, chief engineer and others visited the school and addressed the pupils. In 1956 a photograph of the school was presented to the ship in exchange for a framed colour photograph of the ship which hangs in the present Administration Block entrance. When the 'Port Chalmers' was on her final voyage in 1965 Captain Chapman presented the ship's engraved engine room bell to the school and cups for swimming competition. When the new 'Port Chalmers' made her first visit to her name port in 1968 she was adopted by the school and her picture hung in the foyer but with changed shipping patterns she has been only an infrequent caller.

Since 1969 most pupils in the senior classes have had the chance to attend a ten day camp at Camp Iona, Herbert, or the Armstrong Centre, Inch Valley. Since Mr J. G. Bain had served for a time as the Education Board's Camp Officer the children have been able to obtain the maximum benefit from the experience. During the time in camp normal lessons are held along with such activities as archery, abseiling, confidence building, bush walks, swimming, camp-outs and cook-outs. Besides being a valuable social experience the camps play an important part in bringing staff, parents and pupils together, for each camp involves about ten 'camp mothers' to organise the catering.

## **9. Community, Staff and Pupils**

The controversy over the proposed 'decapitation' in 1978 showed the strength of community support for the school. The many amenities enjoyed by the pupils throughout the life of the school have been provided by the cooperative efforts of the committees, teaching staff, parents and the Borough Council. Links with the Council have been very strong—two members of the first committee serving as Mayor, Thomas Tayler in 1868 - 1869 and Hugh McDermid in 1869 - 1870 and 1873 - 1874. Thomas Dodson, Chairman at the time of the Bible in Schools controversy, was Mayor in 1883 - 1884. E. G. Allen, John Mill, Isaac Stevenson, Thomas Scollay were all Mayors who were good friends of the school in many and different ways. The tradition is continued by the present Mayor, Mr J. S. Thorn who was secretary of the Centennial Committee and is currently Chairman of the 125th Anniversary Committee. Among teachers who have served on the Council are Messrs Reid, Forsyth, Jack, Gillespie and Bain.

The School Committee has generally attracted men, and latterly women, with a strong sense of community. Of the many Committee Chairmen the most notable have been John McLachlan from 1900 to 1913 and the Rev. W. M. Grant, and institution in the town, from 1919 to 1932. Both men were presented with framed photographs of themselves on their retirements and copies were hung in the old school corridor. Mr W. Turnbull served ten years as Chairman from 1947 to 1957, the period which covered the erection of the new school which he said was his greatest pleasure. In the years since the

centenary notable committee service has been rendered by Mrs I. Knewstubb and Messrs J. Peck, A. Syme and A. Innes, all of whom served in different capacities for more than ten years.

The strongest links between the school and the community have always been, and are today, those teachers who have given long service to the school and who have lived in the community. While long service in itself is not necessarily remarkable, those teachers, often ex-pupils, who have taught at the school for long periods have provided the continuity, stability and tradition which have benefited the pupils. Among such teachers who have been remembered by earlier generations are Mr J. McFarlane 1869 to 1879, Mary Sinclair 1875 to 1901 and Amelia Bott 1878 to 1912. James H. Gray, known as 'Toosey', became an institution, teaching mathematics from 1896 to 1925 with methods still remembered, ruefully by some, to this day. At the junior end of the school Mrs Ada Nicolson ran the infant department from 1913 to 1930, "like a wise, kind and firm mother," the Rev. Grant's words.

Mr Leslie G. (Monk) Jack had 37 years connection with the school as pupil, pupil-teacher and teacher. He remembers as a boy rowing to school from Careys Bay, exploring the Maori Caves where the shipyards are now, sampling wine brewed by Mr Monti at Careys Bay and receiving smoked cod from Mr Innes at his fish-curing plant in Queens Drive. In those days the lamp-lighter still lit each street-lamp, Mr Gardiner's car was a novelty and a ride on its running board sufficient reward for pushing it up the rise of Wickliffe Terrace. Participation in such episodes as loosening the tent ropes at the annual Naval Volunteers' Camp at the old Recreation Ground gave Mr Jack a solid grounding in the ways of Port boys. He knew what it meant when Mr Booth reached behind into the tail of his tail-coat—where he kept his strap.

When Mr Jack was in Standard 2 the Imperial Reader carried the story of a shipwrecked sailor who threw stones at a monkey up a tree who had stolen his cap—the monkey, 'Jacko', was the origin of his nickname.

Having passed Proficiency (similar to School Certificate) Mr Jack became a pupil-teacher in 1916 - 1917. The pupil-teachers helped mainly in the junior classes and received their tuition from the Headmaster outside the regular school hours before going on to Teachers' College. In 1927 he returned to the staff and was the only teacher retained when Mr Forsyth introduced the Dalton Plan. He actively coached rugby, swimming, boxing and athletics, taking part with the pupils, and directed music, Maori studies and interest in local government. He served two terms on the Borough Council and took the role of Charles Kettle in the 1948 re-enactment of the arrival of the Otago Pioneers.

With his experience he was offered promotion to several Dunedin schools but preferred to stay in Port Chalmers where he enjoyed the respect of his pupils. In 1953 he was persuaded to accept the position of First Assistant at Forbury School and he subsequently moved to St Clair and Green Island. He now lives in active retirement in Kenmure, Dunedin.

Two teachers who came from St Leonards, Miss Connie Middleton 1941 to 1955 and Miss Ailsa Johnston 1965 to 1973, made particular contributions to the sporting side of the school. Miss E. Grant 1956 to 1963 was a kindly infant mistress.

Mr Noel Glengarry 1951 to 1962 did much to encourage music and sport in the school, and in the wider community made notable contributions in rowing, youth work and as Secretary of the Swimming Baths Committee. Mr Jim Bowkitt, First Assistant from 1959 to 1965 entered fully into community life.

Pupils in the last twenty five years have benefited from the teaching of Mr A. G. Innes, who joined the staff in 1955 and Mr J. G. Bain from 1959. Both are ex pupils of the school and have long family connections with the town. Mr Innes's work with the Sea Cadets and Mr Bain's coaching of many sports and leadership in the school camps are extensions of their interest in, and concern for, the welfare of their pupils.

One indication of the calibre of the teachers who have taught at the school is the number who have gone on to higher positions in education. Dr Chilton became Rector of

Canterbury University College and Thomas Hunter, his pupil and a teacher at the school from 1894 to 1897 became Professor, Sir Thomas Hunter of Victoria University College, Wellington. Mr L. B. Wood became School Inspector in Canterbury and Charles Bossence, a teacher from 1885 to 1895 achieved a similar position. Among those teachers who have become lecturers at the Dunedin Teachers' College are George Beath 1932 - 1936, Jack Ussher 1950 - 1952, R. Johnston 1953 - 1955 and John Bolton 1956 - 1961.

Related to this, and reflecting on the tone of the school and the high standard of the teaching, is the part played by senior members of the staff in giving practical training to innumerable students from the Dunedin Teachers' College. In a recent year eight student teachers received practical training and advice at the school.

Service of a notable character was performed by the Rev. A. Don, a teacher at the school in 1879. He went to China to study the language and people and returned to become travelling missionary to Chinese goldminers in Central Otago, camping with them and living a life of hardship and self-denial.

Mention must also be made of notable service rendered the school by its caretakers. The first full-time janitor, W. Moir, was appointed in 1879 at a salary of 12 pounds a year and a rent free house. His successor, George Rutherford served until he died and Mr J. R. Facer then gave faithful service until his retirement. The tradition these men established was carried on by Mr Ted Larkins who became a well known figure to several generations of pupils from the late 1940's until his retirement because of ill health in August 1966. In recognition of his work a well-deserved presentation was made to him at a school assembly.

"The lifeblood of the school," wrote Dr Chilton in 1922, "is renewed and reinvigorated every year" by its succession of pupils. The thousands of pupils of the past 125 years have entered every conceivable job and profession. The sons of the bush sawyers and lightermen of the first generation became the small farmers and wool lumpers of the next. Fishermen and seamen of one generation were succeeded by their sons. But whereas once employment locally could almost be guaranteed in the waterfront, engineering and boat building industries of the port today's young people look to a wide variety of trades and professions in Dunedin, throughout New Zealand and overseas. Though not in the statistics of the port trained young people have always been one of its greatest 'exports'.

Only a few among them who have had notable careers can be mentioned. Two successful pupils of Mr McKay were the Rev. Andrew Cameron, M.A., LL.D., Chancellor of Otago University and Dr J. D. Closs, M.D., Ch.M., Honorary Surgeon to Dunedin Hospital and Lecturer in Clinical Surgery at the Otago Medical School. Alec Falconer, a pupil in the 1880's was another prominent doctor and proprietor of Ashburn Hall. W. J. Porteous used his medical training as a missionary in India. William Mawson became a missionary in China.

Four ex-pupils of the school lost their lives in the Boer War of 1899 - 1902: Sergeant S. W. Gourlay and Troopers J. P. Salter, C. K. Ward and J. Cashman. Among the sixty casualties of the 1914 - 1918 War were Colonel Arthur Bauchop and Major B. C. Tenant, M.C., R.M.C. The casualty list in the Second World War was shorter but the losses were none the less tragic.

The career of Colonel Bauchop shows the terrible loss to the town of those killed in these wars. Arthur Bauchop had been both a worthy scholar and fine athlete at the school. He attended Otago Boys' High School in 1884 and then became prominent in the Volunteer movement. He was a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Boer War and was four times mentioned in Despatches. Afterwards he was Officer Commanding the Canterbury District. On Tuesday 22 September 1914 the School had a holiday to see him lead the departure from Port Chalmers of the Second Expeditionary Force, Otago Contingent in the ships 'Ruapehu' and 'Hawkes Bay'. "Flags, streamers, mottoes were on every hand—and in the afternoon all the streets about the wharves were crowded with motor-cars . . . As the ships moved away many tears were shed," wrote the Rev. Grant in his diary.

Colonel Bauchop wrote to Grant from Gallipoli on 27 July 1915:

"The peninsula is beautiful. When we came here ten weeks ago the small flat between the cliffs and the sea was covered with scarlet poppies and now the whole countryside has taken on a mauve hue with the flower of the wild thyme, which is delightful in scent when we crush it by moving over it. The blue sea in front—not 200 yards off—with our warships and destroyers constantly moving up and down, night and day, to watch our flanks makes it all very charming."

Nine days later he was dead from a sniper's bullet.

Fortunately most generations have known peace in which to follow their chosen careers. Ex-pupils of the school can be named in all the professions—law, medicine, teaching, the ministry and nursing. Others have entered commerce and trades, offices and construction projects, careers at sea and in the home. All can testify to the firm foundations for their lives provided by the Port Chalmers School.



### Rectors – Headmasters – Principals

1856–1861	Colin Allan	1944–1945	W. H. Scott
1861–1869	William Reid	1946–1948	A. C. Notman
1869–1881	W. B. McKay	1949–1956	G. S. Gillespie
1881 acting	W. Smith	1956–1960	Cecil P. Beck
1882–1884	L. B. Wood	1960–1965	William McNaughton
1885 acting	Walter Turpin	1964 acting	Sam. McAlpine
1885–1886	M. Fearnley	1966–1973	Maurice Toomey
1886–1888	John Allardice	1973 acting	A. M. Smith
1888–1894	Charles Chilton	1973–1977	S. J. Kermode
1894–1907	James Rennie	1977 acting	A. M. Smith
1908–1929	George F. Booth	1978–1980	H. M. Dowall
1930–1941	David Forsyth	1980 acting	J. G. Bain
1941–1943	L. J. Broomfield	1980–	B. Hill-Scully

### Infant Mistresses – Supervisors of Junior Classes

1865	Miss M. Hooman	1931–1938	Miss Parry
1865–1868	Miss A. Bell	1938–1947	Miss V. Cable
1869–1872	Miss A. Gourlay	1947–1949	Mrs J. Sutherland
1872	Mrs M. Wallace	1950–1953	Mrs V. Sansom
1873	Miss Quinlan	1954–1956	Miss J. E. Wight
1874–1875	Mrs A. Neish	1956–1963	Miss E. Grant
1875–1901	Miss M. Sinclair	1964 acting	Miss J. Smith
1901–1902	Miss McMillan	1964–1965	Mr T. Gilchrist
1902–1911	Miss E. Orkney	1965–1969	Mrs H. Brookes
1912	Miss Paterson	1970–1977	Mr R. Stevens
1913–1930	Mrs A. Nicolson	1978–	Mrs E. Larkins

**Teachers Since 1956**  
 (This list may not be complete)

1951—1962	N. R. Glengarry	1968—1969	K. McLelland
1954—1957	Miss M. Noone	1968	I. Kinnard
1955—1957	Miss D. Reese	1968	Miss Thorn
1955—1957	C. J. Rutherford	1968—1969	Mrs J. Crooks (nee Pine)
1955—1958	W. Porter	1968—1972	Mrs K. Krauze (nee Mathias)
1955—	A. G. Innes	1969—1970	Miss R. Briggs
1956—1957	Miss A. Taylor	1969	B. Didham
1956—1963	Miss E. Grant	1969	Miss M. Clifton
1956—1961	J. Bolton	1970—1973	Miss S. Mair
1957	Miss Robinson	1970—1972	F. Faulkner
1957—1962	C. J. Patterson	1970	B. Waddle
1958—1959	Miss J. Braithwaite	1970	Miss J. Espline
1958—1959	Miss M. McDonald	1970—1981	A. M. Smith
1958	Mrs Popoff	1971	O. Goldsmith
1959	Miss Bradfield	1971	Miss C. McElrea
1959—1965	J. Bowkitt	1971	Miss M. Rich
1959	Miss Baker	1972—1974	Mrs J. Wong (nee Hoare)
1959	J. G. Bain	1972—1973	Mrs M. Gibson
1960	Miss S. McLean	1972	Mrs M. Rutherford
1960—1961	R. Braithwaite	1973—1974	Miss D. Stevenson
1961	Miss P. Harris	1973	Miss K. Daglish
1961—1963	Miss K. Bradley	1973—1974	Miss S. Ryan
1961	Mrs R. Sligo	1974—1977	Mrs W. Shoemack
1961	Miss F. Reid	1974	Miss H. Wilkie
1961—1962	Miss F. McGowan	1974	Miss B. Walker
1961—1962	Miss Margaret Baker	1974	D. Stinton
1962	Miss M. Stronach	1975—1977	Mrs Moses
1962	Miss E. McCord	1975	Mrs L. Dunne
1962—1965	John Bain	1975	P. Parkinson
1963	Miss J. Reid	1975—1976	T. Body
1963	Miss R. Leach	1975—1977	Miss C. Dodd
1963—1964	Miss L. McLean	1975	Mrs M. Kilpatrick (nee Hawkins)
1963—1964	Mrs M. Bracefield	1975—1976	Miss M. Gray
1964	Miss J. Smith	1975—1977	Miss A. Begg
1964	Miss N. McBride	1976	M. Hawes
1964—1967	Miss Davis	1976	Miss P. Begg
1964—1965	T. Gilchrist	1976	N. Lusher
1965	Miss Croombe	1977	Mrs E. Larkins
1965—1969	Mrs H. Brookes	1977	Miss A. Hackett
1965—1973	Miss A. Johnston	1977—1978	Mrs W. Bellingham
1965—1967	Miss J. Jarratt	1978—	Mrs P. Tuaiti
1966	Miss M. Orr	1978	Mrs D. Quarrell
1966	Mrs J. Williams	1978	Miss Goulter
1966	Miss S. Hannan	1978	Mr A. Turner
1966—1977	R. J. Stevens	1979	
1967—1969	J. Dugnam	1980	
1967—1969	Miss H. Morrison	1980	

## Acknowledgements and References

This history builds on the work of the Rev W. M. Grant who recorded the school's first sixty years in 1922, and Dean Paris who took the narrative up to the centenary in 1956. While some new material has been introduced I have relied heavily on their content. For the last twenty-five years I have had access to the School Committee Minutes, made available by Mr K. Rees.

I was fortunate to be able to interview three people who, at different times in the school's history, were both pupils and teachers, Mrs G. Welch (Freda Miller), Mr Les Jack and Mr Alec Innes. Their help was invaluable.

My Greer nephews and nieces enabled me to view events through their experiences as recent pupils.

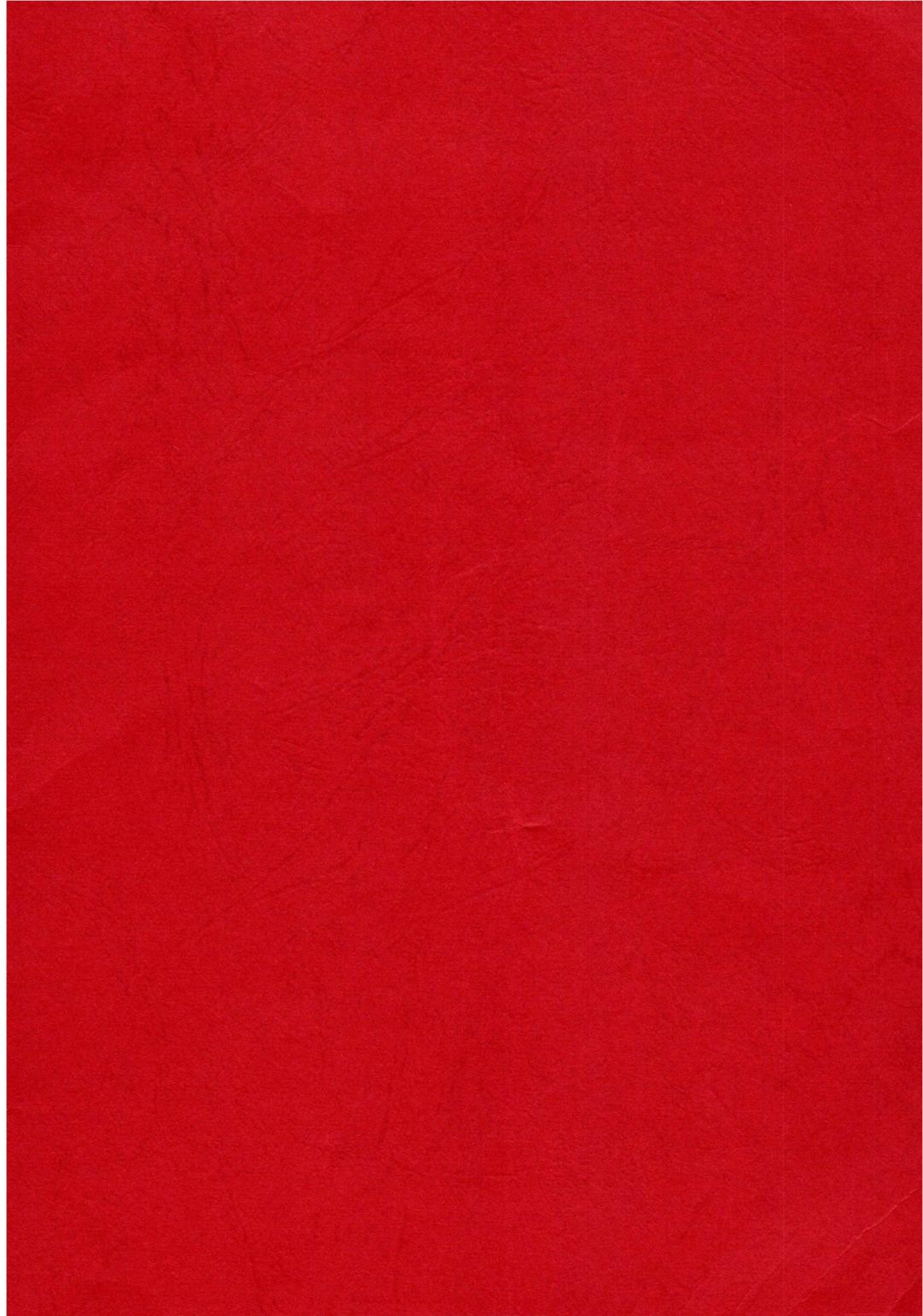
The Port Chalmers Old Identities Association made their collection of pioneer reminiscences freely available to me, and the Hocken Library and the Dunedin Public Library provided me with useful documents.

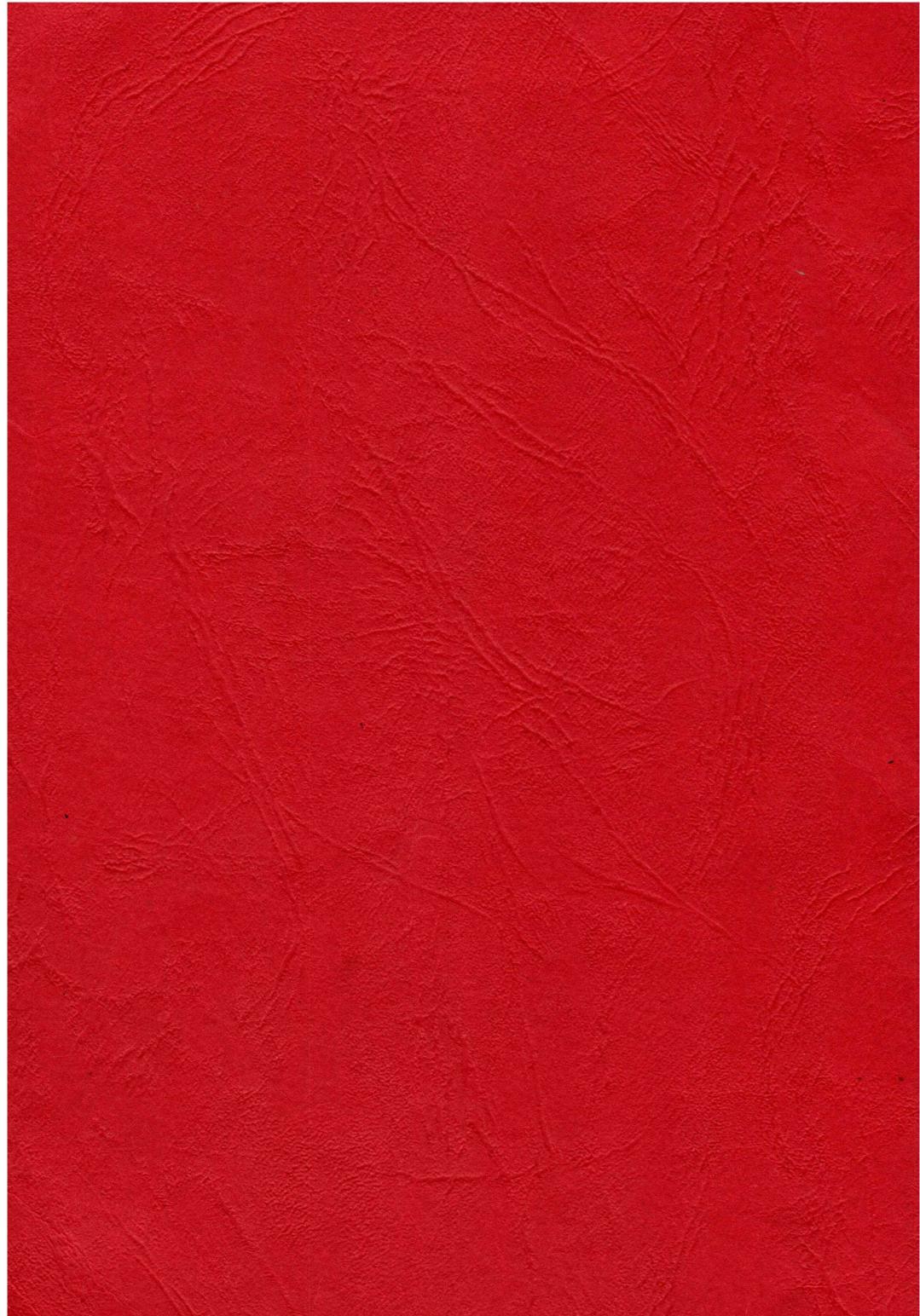
Finally I must thank the chairman, Mr J. S. Thorn, and the members of the 125th Jubilee Committee for entrusting this task to me despite the fact that distance made close collaboration impossible.

— Ian Church, Patea, April 1981.

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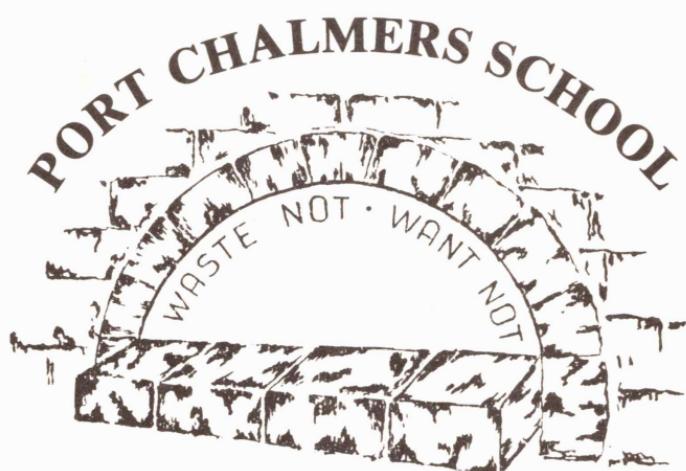
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# 125th Anniversary

1856 — 1981



## SOCIAL EVENING AND BUFFET SUPPER

University Union Building  
Castle Street  
Dunedin

**SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 1981 from 7.30 p.m.**

# BUFFET SUPPER MENU

## HOT DISHES

*Chicken a la King*

*Hungarian Goulash*



## COLD DISHES

*Assorted Cold Meats*

*Russian Ham Rolls*



## DESERTS

*Fruit Salad and Cream*

*Pavlova and Cream*



## EXTRAS

*Sandwiches • Savouries*

*Nuts • Crisps • Nibbles*

WINES WILL BE SERVED

# TOAST LIST

"THE QUEEN"

Chairman

OFFICIAL WELCOME

J. S. Thorn

(Chairman of the School Anniversary Committee)

"THE SCHOOL"

Mr Stan Rodger

(Member of Parliament for the district)

Response — Mr B. Hill-Scully (Headmaster)

"THE OTAGO EDUCATION BOARD"

Mr C. Pike

(Deputy Chairman of Anniversary Committee)

Response — Mr J. B. Roy (Chairman, Otago Education Board)

REMINISCENCES

Mr L. G. Jack

(Ex-pupil, ex-teacher)

"THE TEACHERS"—PAST AND PRESENT"

and

"THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE"—PAST AND PRESENT W. M. Innes (ex-pupil)

Responses: Mr M. Toomy (ex-Headmaster),

Mr K. Rees (ex-Committee Chairman)

Informal reminiscences as time permits

**Toastmaster: Mr J. S. Thorn**

AULD LANG SYNE

# AUTOGRAPHS